

Bibliotheca Medica Canadiana

Le journal de l'Association des bibliothèques de la santé du Canada Serials.

- Workplace Health and Safety Resources in Canada
- · Ontario Health Care Evaluation Network
- StatsMaster: Index of Health-Related Data Sources for BC Ministry of Health
- CHLA/ABSC Twentieth Annual General Meeting

Health Sciences Library University of Saskatchewan Room B207, 107 Wiggins Roa Saskatoon, SK

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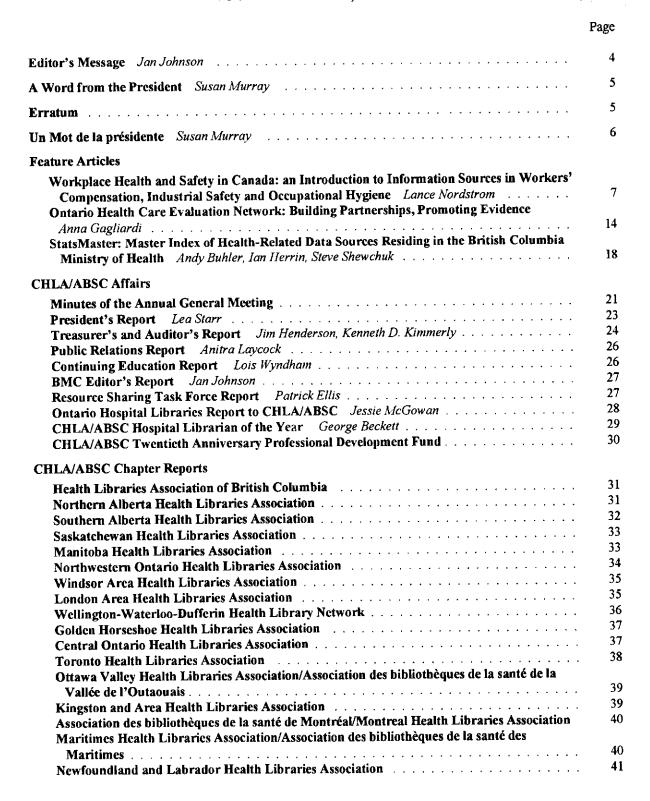


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BIBLIOTHECA MEDICA CANADIANA

he Bibliotheca Medica Canadiana is a vehicle providing for increased communication among all health libraries and health science librarians in Canada. We have a special commitment to reach and assist the worker in the smaller, isolated health library.

The **Bibliotheca Medica Canadiana** is published 4 times per year by the Canadian Health Libraries Association. Opinions expressed herein are those of the contributors and the editor and not the CHLA/ABSC.



a Bibliotheca Medica Canadiana (BMC) a pour objet de permettre une meilleure communication entre toutes les bibliothèques médicales et entre tous les bibliothécaires qui travaillant dans le secteur des sciences de la santé. Nous nous engageons tout particulièrement à atteindre et à aider ceux et

celles qui travaillent dans les bibliothèques de petite taille et les bibliothèques relativement isolées.

Bibliotheca Medica Canadiana est publié 4 fois par année par l'Association des bibliothèques de la santé du Canada. Les articles paraissant dans BMC expriment l'opinion de leurs auteurs ou de la rédaction et non pas celle de l'Association.



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Editor's Message

Jan Johnson

aving brought the editorship of the *BMC* as far west as it's heretofore been, it seems appropriate that this editor's closing message should originate from the wilderness of Haida Gwaii, the (Queen Charlotte) islands on the farthest edge of western Canada. Time takes on a refreshingly different aspect in this setting, possibilities dictated not by politics, clocks or calendars, but by the flux of sun and tides--and appropriate layers of clothing. After several days viewing wildlife through binoculars, I have witnessed the smallest of moments enlarged to significance, memorably in a strangely malleable clump of oceanic 'driftwood' transforming, on focus, into a duet of seals, and the incredible sight of two small crows maligning a mature bald eagle far aloft in the coastal forest.

The most unbelievable sight was viewed unaided, however, when I happened to tear my binoculared vision from a nearby swirl of meal-seeking storm petrels, to glance at a black form taking shape some 100 metres down the beach. A fellow with a poncho? No, two fellows? What on earth, a black bear! in dappled sunlight, under evergreen boughs gracing the edge of the high tide line. Time stood still as I fleetingly weighed options. As yet unnoticed, I was miles from another human, unaware of appropriately ingratiating bear greetings, and acutely aware that bears run as fast as racehorses. Lacking bear bells, bear mace, or worse fate, my lucky pebble, I did not pause to capture the moment, but fled clattering across the stoney beach, glancing back only when I'd rounded the bay.

This cautionary tale serves as a reminder that while there can be tremendous rewards in examining the world at our feet, it does well to keep an eye on the broader perspective. Members not in attendance at the annual general meeting in Toronto, and unable to subscribe to the CANMEDLIB listserv might not be aware that the question of BMC's continuance in print format has been raised in light of budgetary concerns. While the ratio of BMC expenditure relative to CHLA/ABSC income has remained more or less constant over the past years, the question has arisen because of the emergence of the World Wide Web. Access to the Web is universal only in theory however, and bearing in mind the declared mandate in BMC's masthcad: "We have a special commitment to reach and assist the worker in the smaller, isolated health library", my plea is that the relative isolation of these members not be intensified by denying the very vehicle which enables their link to the national health library scene.

While most Canadians living an hour or two from the 49th parallel can take a certain universality of amenities for granted, those living elsewhere cannot. Even though I reside in a city of some 74,000 for instance, I cannot tune in to the 'national' CBC-FM radio station (it is left to Prince George citizens to raise the transmission equipment cost--\$20,000, of which we are currently \$14,000 short). If I wish to subscribe to Canada's 'national' newspaper, I must make arrangements with the proprietor of Mosquito Books, who will reserve a copy for me if I am willing to make the trip downtown (in winters exceeding minus 30 C) to pick

it up. To think after years of home delivery in Vancouver and Toronto, my Winnipeg subscription was cancelled because the carrier flatly insisted on tossing the Saturday edition at the bottom of the stairs!

There are still many CHLA/ABSC members, including chapter presidents and *BMC* correspondents who do not have an e-mail address, let alone access to a Web browser. Consideration must be given to the nature of the service that CHLA/ABSC will be providing if it resorts to an exclusively electronic publication, and to the potential impacts on membership levels. While costs are an important factor and the Board has been addressing these with shifts in the publication process, questions about the appropriateness of expenditures must be phrased in light of CHLA/ABSC's mandate, and the stated priorities of its members. In my view, one of the main questions to be addressed is: if spending levels on the *BMC* are inappropriate, then what projects are more appropriate that the Association should be directing these funds toward?

The new editorial team begins its work as of September 1, and in aid of informed decision-making, they and the Board will be asking for your input. I would encourage you all, particularly if you are part of the landscape thus far excluded from discussions, to make your views known as publishing options and funding priorities continue to be scrutinised. Feedback is welcomed and particularly important where the *BMC*, as the public face of this organisation, is concerned.

In addition to a record of the minutes of the annual general meeting and reports from Board, Task Force members and provincial chapters, this post-conference issue is rounded out with a number of feature articles. I am pleased to include Lance Nordstrom's comprehensive overview of workplace health and safety resources in Canada, Anna Gagliardi's description of the Ontario Health Care Evaluation Network, and an account of the development of the BC Ministry of Health Library's StatsMaster by Andy Buhler, Ian Herrin and Steve Shewchuk. The announcements of the Twentieth Anniversary Professional Development Award and the 1996 recipient of the Hospital Librarian of the Year Award are also not to be missed. Congratulations to Charlotte Beck! Thanks to all contributors, especially those willing volunteers who have lightened the burdens of editorship. May your support continue with the incoming editorial team.

If during my editorship I have raised awareness of issues for those of us living 'beyond Hope' (Hope being a town on the fringes of British Columbia's lower mainland), that there is indeed a world here which often feels in a void quite beyond hope, then I am satisfied. If only I have managed also to convey the distinction between Prince Rupert (that's R as in Rain, refreshing coastal) and Prince George (that's G as in Grit, all manner of), then I will have done my bit. I now bow out to my successor Dean Giustini, and his assistant Laurie Blanchard, and tip my hat to my predecessor, Dave Colborne, who responded with unfailing equanimity to requests for advice along the way. Smooth sailing to the new crew, and to the BMC, wherever its future lies.

A Word from the President

Susan Murray

ongratulations to the CHLA/ABSC '96 Organizing Committee and many volunteers who contributed to the success of our 20th anniversary conference in Toronto!

"Creative Connections" was a particularly appropriate theme to highlight our ongoing role in building technological and personal networks to anticipate the information needs of the 21st century. Resource sharing, mastering the Web, using Internet as a reference tool, principles of evidence-based medicine, community building in a networked environment - all of these areas are transforming libraries. The conference provided many formal and informal opportunities to share strategies in delivering health information.

To mark this special anniversary, the Twentieth Anniversary Professional Development Award has been inaugurated. This award was created to enhance access to professional development opportunities for individual CHLA/ABSC members. Awards to a maximum of \$200 will be available; the number of awards will be set at the Fall Board Meeting each year. Readmore Canada has generously provided \$200 towards the first award and has agreed to be an annual sponsor. See this issue of *BMC* for details.

In the next year, a number of important activities will be underway. As a first step to develop a statistical profile of Canadian health sciences libraries, CHLA/ABSC is participating in the National Core Library Statistics Program (NCLSP) administered by the National Library of Canada. The data collected by the NCLSP questionnaire will be instrumental in justifying the funding of health information resources and in applying accreditation standards. Summaries of the collected information will be published in an upcoming issue of *BMC*.

To build upon the data collected by the NCLSP, the Board has established a Task Force on the National Health Libraries Survey. The Task Force will be responsible for the creation of an implementation plan for gathering statistical data for benchmarking from Canadian health libraries. Task Force members are: Dorothy Fitzgerald, Judy Inglis, Joanne Marshall, and Elizabeth Reid.

The Board is also exploring advocacy strategies to assist the membership in dealing with the impact of health care restructuring on health libraries. The MLA Task Force on the Role of the Librarian has recently produced the MLA's Librarian Survival Kit to help promote the value of the health sciences librarian and their services to their institutions. You may have seen the first of a series of ads in the May 1996 MLA News advocating the key role of health sciences librarians in the evolving health care environment. We are working on adapting some of the excellent materials in the MLA resource kit for a Canadian audience, as well as other advocacy strategies.

Another priority will be broadening networks and strengthening our liaisons with groups such as MLA, the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation (CCHSA), ACMC Committee on Medical School Libraries, and the CISTI Advisory Subcommittee on Health Sciences Information. Working together will improve our chances to successfully influence policies affecting the health sciences community.

There will also be continuing efforts in a number of other areas, such as resource sharing, copyright, and adoption of a code of ethics. Lea Starr has outlined many of the ongoing activities in her "Report of the 1995/96 CHLA/ABSC President."

I'd like to welcome new and returning CHLA/ABSC Board members for 1996-97: President-Elect Lois Wyndham (formerly CE Coordinator), Past-President Lea Starr, Treasurer Jim Henderson, Secretary Janet Joyce, Public Relations Coordinator Anitra Laycock, CE Coordinator Shelagh Wotherspoon, *BMC* Editor Dean Giustini, and Assistant *BMC* Editor Laurie Blanchard. We will all work very hard to address your concerns in the coming year - feel free to contact any of us with issues that are of importance to you. Avail yourself of the advantages of Association membership. And don't overlook opportunities, such as the new Professional Development Award; consider applying to the Development Fund for financial support of a special project at the local level.

Finally, it's not too early to start planning to attend next year's conference in Vancouver May 28-June 1, 1997. Not only is it an alluring site, but the cost of accommodation will never be lower-single rooms will be approximately \$35.00! Conference sessions and CE courses also look great! Check the Web page for details of CHLA/ABSC '97 at: http://www.library.ubc.ca/life/chla97/

Erratum

The article "Expanding Outreach Services in the Maritimes" by Hughena Mac Millan and Janet Bangma in the last issue of *BMC* [17(4):136-138] incorrectly states that the Inverness Consolidated Memorial Hospital does not have a library. While there is a library on site, there is no librarian. Thus the services of Kellogg Library are used for literature searches and document delivery requests when necessary.

Un Mot de la présidente

Susan Murray

élicitations aux membres du Comité organisateur 1996 de l'ABSC/CHLA et aux nombreux bénévoles qui ont contribué au succès de notre congrès à Toronto qui marquait le 20^e anniversaire de notre association!

Le thème «Liens créateurs» était particulièrement bien choisi pour souligner notre rôle continu dans la mise en place de réseaux technologiques et personnels en vue de répondre aux besoins d'information du 21^e siècle. Le partage des ressources, la maîtrise du Web, l'utilisation d'Internet en tant qu'outil de référence, les principes de la médecine fondée sur l'expérience clinique, l'édification d'une communauté en réseaux, tous ces éléments sont en train de modifier les bibliothèques. Le Congrès nous a fourni bon nombre de possibilités formelles et informelles pour partager diverses stratégies dans la façon d'offrir des renseignements en matière de santé.

Pour souligner cet anniversaire spécial, nous avons créé le Prix de perfectionnement professionnel du 20^e anniversaire. Cette récompense est offerte pour améliorer l'accès à des activités de perfectionnement professionnel aux membres à titre personnel de l'ABSC/CHLA. Des prix pouvant aller jusqu'à 200 \$ seront offerts et, chaque année, le nombre de prix qui sera distribué sera déterminé lors de la réunion du Conseil de l'automne. Readmore Canada nous a généreusement donné 200 \$ pour le premier prix et a accepté d'être un commanditaire chaque année. Pour plus d'information, veuillez consulter ce numéro de BMC.

Au cours de la prochaine année, bon nombre d'activités importantes seront entreprises. Comme première étape pour élaborer un profil statistique des bibliothèques canadiennes des sciences de la santé, l'ABSC/CHLA participe au Programme de statistiques de base des bibliothèques canadiennes (PSBBC) qui est administré par la Bibliothèque nationale du Canada. Les données recueillies grâce au questionnaire du PSBBC seront des outils utiles pour justifier le financement des ressources d'information en matière de santé et dans l'application des normes d'accréditation. Des sommaires des renseignements recueillis figureront dans un prochain numéro de *BMC*.

Pour interpréter les données recueillies par le PSBBC, le Conseil a mis sur pied un groupe de travail sur le sondage des bibliothèques canadiennes de la santé. Ce groupe de travail sera chargé de l'application d'un plan de mise en oeuvre pour recueillir les données statistiques pour l'étalonnage provenant des bibliothèques canadiennes de la santé. Le groupe est composé des membres suivants : Dorothy Fitzgerald, Judy Inglis, Joanne Marshall et Elizabeth Reid.

Le Conseil est également en train d'étudier des stratégies de représentation pour aider nos membres à composer avec les effets de la restructuration des soins de santé dans les bibliothèques de la santé. Le Groupe de travail de la MLA sur le rôle des bibliothécaires a récemment produit le «MLA 's Librarian Survival Kit» (Guide de

survie des bibliothécaires de la MIA) pour aider à valoriser les bibliothécaires des sciences de la santé et à promouvoir les services que ces personnes rendent à leur institution. Il se peut que vous ayez vu les premières d'une série d'annonces dans le numéro de mai 1996 de MLA News où l'on définit comme essentiel le rôle des bibliothécaires de la santé dans l'univers en évolution de la santé. Nous sommes en train d'adapter certaines parties de cet excellent document de la MLA pour un auditoire canadien de même que d'autres stratégies de représentation.

Parmi nos autres priorités, nous comptons élargir nos réseaux et améliorer nos relations avec des groupes tels que la *MLA*, le Conseil canadien d'agrément des services de santé (CCASS), le Comité de l'AFMC sur les bibliothèques des facultés de médecine et le Sous-comité consultatif sur l'information en sciences de la santé de l'ICIST. En travaillant ensemble, nous améliorerons nos possibilités d'influencer avec succès les politiques qui touchent à la communauté des sciences de la santé.

Nous allons également poursuivre nos efforts dans bon nombre d'autres secteurs tels que le partage des ressources, le droit d'auteur et l'adoption d'un code de déontologie. Lea Starr a souligné plusieurs activités en cours dans son rapport 1995-1996 de la présidente de l'ABSC/CHLA.

J'aimerais souhaiter la bienvenue à de nouveaux et d'anciens membres du Conseil de l'ABSC/CHLA pour 1996-1997: la présidente élue, Lois Wyndham (anciennement coordonnatrice de formation professionnelle); l'ancienne présidente, Lea Starr; le trésorier, Jim Henderson, la secrétaire, Janet Joyce, la coordonnatrice des relations publiques, Anitra Laycock; la coordonnatrice de la formation professionnelle, Shelagh Wotherspoon; l'éditeur de BMC, Dean Giustini; et l'éditrice adjointe de BMC, Laurie Blanchard. Nous allons tous et toutes travailler très fort pour répondre à vos préoccupations au cours de la prochaine année. N'hésitez pas à communiquer avec nous pour toute question qui vous semble importante. Prévalez-vous des avantages de faire partie d'une association et ne vous privez pas de possibilités tels que le nouveau Prix de perfectionnement professionnel. Songez à présenter une demande de financement au Fonds de développement pour mettre sur pied un projet spécial à l'échelle locale.

En guise de mot de la fin, il n'est pas trop tôt pour commencer à planifier le Congrès de l'an prochain qui aura lieu à Vancouver du 28 mai au 1^{er} juin 1997. Non seulement il s'agit d'un site enchanteur mais les frais de logement ne peuvent être plus bas. En effet, un chambre simple coûtera environ 35 \$! Les séances du Congrès et les cours de formation professionnelle semblent également fort intéressants! Pour de plus amples renseignements sur le Congrès 1997 de l'ABSC/CHLA, consultez la page du Web à l'adresse électronique suivante:

http://www.library.ubc.ca/life/chla97/

Workplace Health and Safety in Canada: An Introduction to Information Sources in Workers' Compensation, Industrial Safety and Occupational Hygiene

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Introduction

he number and cost of occupational accidents in Canada suggest that workplace injuries are a significant factor in the life of many Canadians. In 1993, for instance, there were 423,184 work-related time-loss injuries and illnesses accepted for compensation in Canada, and survivorship benefits were awarded for 758 work-related fatalities (1). The total cost of short-term time-loss claims and long-term pensions paid out in 1993 was approximately \$6,200 million (2).

More than 10 years have passed since Bibliotheca Medica Canadiana published its special issue on workplace health and safety, profiling the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health & Safety (3) and the Ontario Ministry of Labour Library (4), among others. It is perhaps time to revisit this topic, particularly in light of the relatively high number of accidents suffered by health care workers. For example, the frequency of accepted time-loss accidents for occupations in medicine and health in 1994 was 28,463, which is about 1.3 times the national average for 23 occupational groups surveyed by Statistics Canada (5). In British Columbia, the cost of injuries in hospitals and related health services amounted to \$45,714,000 in 1994, or 4.6 times the provincial average for 70+ occupational subclasses (6). In fact, the Workers' Compensation Board of British Columbia has targeted the health care sector for an intensive campaign to reduce the number of musculoskeletal injuries (strains and sprains), which exceeds the provincial average by a factor of 10. Thus, the objective of this paper is to provide a brief introduction to selected information sources in workers' compensation and occupational health & safety which may benefit the readership of BMC. An emphasis is placed on Canadian material and sources I have personally found to be useful. More comprehensive treatments of this subject may be found in several specialised bibliographies and guides to the literature (7-11).

A. Statutory and Regulatory Sources

Workers' compensation and occupational safety & health are governed by provincial and territorial legislation. Thus, primary sources of information are found in the statutes and associated regulations within each jurisdiction. In four jurisdictions, the respective Workers' Compensation Act and/or Occupational Health & Safety Act are administered by the same agency; these are the Workers' Compensation Board of British Columbia (WCBBC), Commission de la santé et de la sécurité du travail du Quebec (CSST), Workplace Health, Safety & Compensation Commission of New Brunswick, and the Yukon Workers' Compensation, Health & Safety Board. This integration of regulatory powers permits closer coordination of accident prevention and compensation objectives.

In the remaining provinces and territory, workers' compensation is managed by a Workers' Compensation Board or Commission, while occupational health and safety is generally handled by a Division, Branch, or Section of the provincial Ministry of Labour or its equivalent. Recently, however, a trend toward combining OS&H and workers' compensation functions has also been observed in Ontario, Prince Edward Island, and, to a lesser extent, Nova Scotia (12). Federal government employees are covered by the Government Employees Compensation Act, which is administered and adjudicated by the provincial workers' compensation boards under an agreement with the federal government. Occupational health and safety at the federal level is controlled by Part II of the Canada Labour Code and its affiliated regulations.

Southam has produced two publications consolidating information on workers' compensation and occupational health and safety from different jurisdictions: Corpus Workers' Compensation Handbook (1990) and Occupational Health & Safety Management Handbook (1989). Unfortunately, some of the material is a bit dated and one must consult recent annuals such as the Corpus Almanac and Canadian Sourcebook for the current name, address, and phone numbers of many agencies. Although Southam has no immediate plans to update these volumes, they are nonetheless useful as a convenient summary of relevant facts and comparative data. More helpful are the subscription services, Canadian Occupational Safety and Health Law from Southam and the Canadian Employment Safety and Health Guide from CCH, which compile and update relevant legislation from each jurisdiction on a continuing basis.

Most of the agencies responsible for workers' compensation and OH&S have policy and procedure manuals describing legal and operational requirements. Much of this information has been summarised in a more readable form by various writers. Of particular note are two recent series from Carswell: *Employer's Health and Safety Manual and Workers' Compensation: An Employer's Guide*, with each volume outlining relevant legislation, regulations, policies, and practices for a particular jurisdiction.

B. Statistical Sources

The provincial and territorial agencies generally include a statistical supplement with their annual report which summarises claim statistics for the year under review, including an analysis of costs, fatalities, injury types, and illnesses. In some cases the agency may also produce more detailed statistical reports. For example, the Statistical Services Department of the WCBBC annually issues two publications analysing accident and occupational disease data for 5-year periods by industry subclass; Trends in Types of Accidents by Occupation, British Columbia and Occupational Diseases in British Columbia.

At the federal level, the National Work Injuries Statistics program of Statistics Canada compiles claims data obtained from the provincial and territorial boards in an annual publication called *Work Injuries*. Recent cuts in the federal government have threatened the continuation of the program, but negotiations are under

way between Stats Can and the Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada (AWCBC) to preserve this important publication (13). A related statistical serial from Labour Canada is Occupational Injuries and their Cost in Canada, formerly called Employment Injuries and Occupational Illnesses prior to 1991. The Canadian Standards Association will soon release a new standard for the collection and description of occupational health and safety

statistics (CSA Z795) which is expected to promote more consistent and detailed reporting of these data for comparative purposes. In the United States, the analogous publication to the preceding two Canadian reference works is *Occupational Injuries and Illnesses in the United States by Industry*, produced by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics.

C. Texts and Monographs

The monographic literature on Canadian workers' compensation is generally quite sparse. However, in recent years a number of texts have appeared that provide useful background material. Terence Ison, a professor at Osgoode Hall Law School and former Chairman of the WCBBC, has written a scholarly treatise entitled Workers' Compensation in Canada (1989) which examines the legal aspects of the Canadian compensation system. Financial, political, and historical issues are dealt with in three recent publications: Research in Canadian Workers' Compensation (1995), Chronic Stress: Workers' Compensation in the 1990s (1995), and The Financing of Workers' Compensation Boards in Canada, 1960-1990 (1994). Outside of Canada, a prolific producer of information is the Workers' Compensation Research Institute

(WCRI) in Cambridge, Massachusetts, of which their "administrative inventories" for various state compensation systems are most informative. WCRI publications typically address topical issues such as costs and funding; representative titles include Medical Costs in Workers' Compensation: Trends and Interstate Comparisons (1989), Review, Regulate, or Reform? What Works to Control Workers' Compensation Medical Costs (1994), and Challenges for the 1990s (1990). Following the WCRI model, the WCBBC commis-

sioned a series of studies on Board operations, including Workers' Compensation in British Columbia: An Administrative Inventory at a Time of Transition (1991), Occupational Safety and Health in British Columbia: An Administrative Inventory (1992), and The Workers' Compensation System of British Columbia: Still in Transition (1996). Medico-legal aspects of work-

ers compensation are addressed in such works as Larson's Law of Workmen's Compensation, Attorney's Textbook of Medicine, and Occupational Injuries and Illnesses from Matthew Bender, and Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment from the American Medical Association.

literature is quite voluminous and often The frequency of accepted somewhat technical. Only a few texts can be mentioned here. Important intime-loss accidents for dustrial hygiene and occupational medioccupations in medicine and cine titles include Fundamentals of health was about 1.3 times the Industrial Hygiene (1996), Patty's Innational average for 23 dustrial Hygiene and Toxicology occupational groups surveyed (1991-), Hunter's Diseases of Occupaby Statistics Canada. tions (1994), and Zenz's Occupational Medicine (1994). Hazardous chemicals

The occupational health and safety

are identified and described in Sax's

Dangerous Properties of Industrial Materials (1996) and Proctor and Hughes' Chemical Hazards in the Workplace (1991), while a good introductory ergonomics text is Grandjean's Fitting the Task to the Man: A Textbook of Occupational Ergonomics (1988). Excellent treatment of safety in the workplace is provided in the many books produced by the National Safety Council, including LaDou's Occupational Health and Safety (1994), Supervisors' Safety Manual (1993), and Accident Prevention Manual for Business and Industry (1992). A classic text from the International Labour Organization (ILO) is the Encyclopedia of Occupational Health and Safety, presently in the 3rd (revised) edition (1983). The long-awaited 4th edition is anticipated sometime in 1996. The numerous publications of the ILO, among others, have been recommended for occupational health and safety collections in public libraries (14, 15).

D. Periodicals

Many workers' compensation boards and OS&H agencies publish newsletters to inform interested parties of their activities. Examples include Connection: Newsletter of the Workers' Compensation Board of New Brunswick and The Compensation Reporter: Newsletter of the Saskatchewan Workers' Compensa-

tion Board. In addition, an enormous periodical literature has evolved to address general workplace safety and health concerns, aspects of which have been discussed by various authors (16-18). For brevity, only a few representative titles are noted here.

A Canadian perspective is provided by OH&S Canada, Canadian Occupational Health & Safety News, and Canadian Occupational Safety. The Ontario Workers' Compensation Review, John Burton's Workers' Compensation Monitor, BNA's Workers'

Compensation Report, and the new Journal of Workers' Compensation focus on current workers' compensation issues. Workplace safety is well represented by such titles as Professional Safety, Safety & Health Practitioner, Occupational Safety & Health (UK), and Occupational Health & Safety (US). Important industrial hygiene and occupational medicine journals include the

Nick Langshaw from the
Workers' Compensation Board
of Saskatchewan is coordinating
development of an informal
network of libraries and
information specialists in
workers' compensation
throughout Canada and the

United States.

American Industrial Hygiene Association Journal, American Journal of Industrial Medicine, Applied Occupational & Environmental Hygiene, Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Occupational and Environmental Medicine (formerly British Journal of Industrial Medicine), Occupational Medicine: State of the Art Reviews, and the Yearbook of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. Regulatory concerns in the United States, particularly those affecting the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), are monitored by BNA's Occupational Safety & Health Reporter.

E. Associations, Directories, and Information Centres

Many specialised associations and information centres publish extensively on workers' compensation and occupational health and safety topics. The Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada (AWCBC, 1350-10665 Jasper Ave., Edmonton, AB T5J

3S9) regularly issues benefit and legislation comparisons for Canadian compensation boards and commissions. The National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI, 750 Park of Commerce Dr., Boca Raton, FL 33487) publishes an *Annual Statistical Bulletin* presenting benefit and premium data for US state funds. Similarly, the American Association of State Compensation Insurance Funds (AASCIF, 3030 North 3rd St., Box 22, Phoenix, AZ 85012) produces an annual *Roster and Fuct Book* providing descriptive and statistical informa-

tion for all members, including the Canadian boards. Two other compendiums of note are the State Workers' Compensation Administration Profiles from the US Department of Labor and Analysis of Workers' Compensation Laws from the US Chamber of Commerce.

The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS, 250 Main St., Hamilton, ON L8N 1H6) is an important source of OH&S information. It not only publishes practical books and electronic products dealing with health and safety matters, but offers a toll-free reference service as well (1-800-263-8466). Two noteworthy associations that produce excellent safety material are the Industrial Accident Prevention Association of Ontario (IAPA, 250 Yonge St., 28th Flr., Toronto, ON M5B 2N4) and the Ontario Natural Resources Safety Association (PO Box 2050 Stn. Main, North Bay, ON P1B 9P1). In the United States, the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA, 250-2700 Prosperity Ave, Fairfax, VA 22031) and the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH, Kemper Woods Center, 600-1330 Kemper Meadow Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45240) produce and distribute a wealth of relevant information. In addition to a respected professional journal, AIHA publishes a Hygienic Guide series on the handling of hazardous chemicals, along with many other publications. ACGIH is well-known for its three-volume Documentation of Threshold Limit Values and Biological Exposure Indices, now in the 6th edition.

At the federal level, the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA, Dept. of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave. NW,

Washington, DC 20210) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45226-1998) disseminate regulatory and research information. OSHA is responsible for developing and promulgating occupational safety and health standards and regulations in the United States, while the role of NIOSH is to research workplace safety and health problems and establish criteria for use by OSHA in standards formulation. NIOSH has produced a useful series of Health & Safety Guides for various industries, and a collection of Criteria Documents reviewing occupational exposures to numerous toxic substances. In Great Britain, the analog to OSHA and NIOSH is the Health and Safety Executive (HSE, PO Box 1999, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 6FS). HSE has an excellent publications program, including a series of Guidance Booklets and Guidance Notes dealing with a wide range of workplace hazards.

A useful directory that has appeared at intervals over the years is the Directory of Occupational Health & Safety Libraries and Collections in Canada. The latest (5th) edition was prepared by

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Joanne Lavkulich in 1993 and is already somewhat dated; for example, the Alberta Occupational Health & Safety Library has since merged with the Alberta Labour Library. The *Directory* is currently loaded on the CCOHS BBS and a proposal is under consideration for possibly moving it to the CCOHS Home Page; this would allow widespread access to the resource over the Internet and would expedite updating as well. A Guide to Occupational Health and Safety Information Sources in British Columbia has recently been published

and even photocopiers.

Guide to Occupational Health and Safety Information Sources in British Columbia has recently been published by the WCBBC that identifies several important agencies with a national scope. Finally, Nick Langshaw from the Workers' Compensation Board of Saskatchewan is coordinating development of an informal network of libraries and information specialists in workers' compensation throughout Canada and the United States (19), and can be contacted at webre@ucomnet.unibase.com for a

F. CD-ROM, Online, and Internet Sources

current listing of members.

A variety of electronic databases exist which index the occupational health and safety literature and facilitate access to toxicological, chemical, and related data banks. Perhaps the most valuable from a Canadian perspective is the *CCINFO Series* of CD-ROM products produced by CCOHS (20). The series currently consists of six discs with over 30 bibliographic and full-text factual databases, including NIOSHTIC (National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health Technical Information Centre), CISDOC (International Labour Organization), MOLINDEX (Ontario Ministry of Labour Library), MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheets), CHEMINFO, Fatality Reports, and RTECS (Registry of Toxic Effects of Chemical Substances).

In 1996, TOXLINE and HSDB (Hazardous Substance Data Bank) from the National Library of Medicine will be added to the CCINFO core series. CCOHS also produces a full-text CD-ROM with Canadian occupational health and safety legislation and pertinent CSA standards cited in provincial and territorial regulations.

Another useful CD is *OSH-ROM* from SilverPlatter (21), containing NIOSHTIC (22), CISDOC (23), and HSELINE from the UK Health & Safety Executive (24). SilverPlatter also markets *OSH-CD*, a two-disc set of OH&S legislation, guidance booklets, technical reports, and directives from the UK Health & Safety Executive and the European Economic Community.

Other full-text optical disc products include the OSHA CD-ROM from the US Occupational Safety & Health Administration, ACGIH TLVs from the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, and the Workers' Compensation Library and Personal Injury Library compact discs from Matthew Bender. The OSHA CD contains all occupational safety and health standards published in the US Code of Federal Regulations, the ACGIH disc includes all six editions of the Documentation of TLVs and BEIs, and the Matthew Bender discs comprise the three medio-legal titles mentioned earlier and more. The 4th edition of the venerable Encyclopedia of Occupational Health and Safety from ILO will also be available in CD format.

Apart from the CDROM products noted above, several online databases from vendors such as DIALOG, MEDLARS, and STN cover the occupational health and safety literature, including CSNB (Chemical Safety News Base), EMBASE (Excerpta Medica), HEALSAFE (Health & Safety Science Abstracts), MEDLINE, and MSDS-OHS, among others (25,26).

Selected World Wide Web sites of interest are: [NB: preface each address with http://]

AIHA (www.aiha.org/), CCOHS (www.ccohs.ca/), CSST (www.csst.qc.ca/), HSE (www.open.gov.uk/hse/hsehome.htm), International Association of Industrial Accident Boards & Commissions (badger.state.wi.us/agencies/dilhr/wc/iaiabc/home.html), NCCI (ncci.com/), NIOSH (www.cdc.gov/niosh/homepage.html), OSHA (www.osha.gov/), the Workers' Compensation Board of Nova Scotia (www.pixelmotion.ns.ca/wcb/home.html), Workers' Compensation Board of Ontario (www.wcb.on.ca/), Workers' Compensation Board of British Columbia (www.wcb.bc.ca), the Workers' Compensation Division of the Wisconsin Department of Industry, Labor, & Human Relations (badger.state.wi.us/agencies/dilhr/wc/), the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission of New Brunswick (www.gov.nb.ca/whscc), and the Workplace Safety & Health Division of Manitoba Labour (www.gov.mb.ca/labour/safety/index1.html).

Most of these Internet sites provide an online list or catalogue of their publications (eg., AIHA, CCOHS, HSE, NCCI) as well as links to related sites. Of particular significance is the huge list of Safety Related Internet Resources found at the CCOHS site and the pointers to various American workers' compensation agencies

maintained by the Wisconsin Workers' Compensation Division. It should be noted that these URLs were current at the time of writing, but can change at any time due to the dynamic nature of the Internet.

G. Conclusions

What are the implications of workers' compensation and occupational health and safety information for health science librarians? First, hospital and health science libraries can promote safe practices and procedures in the workplace by collecting a few reference publications on this topic. These resources can support the information needs of local safety and health committees or safety officers in the organisation, as well as nursing staff and other health care workers. A good starting point is William Charney's three-volume set Essentials of Modern Hospital Safety (1989, 1992, 1995). This treatise covers such topics as back strains from patient lifting, exposure to hazardous chemicals and gases such as ethylene oxide, needlestick injuries, and the transmission of infectious diseases and bloodborne pathogens. Other useful publications include Current Readings in Health Care Safety Management (1995), Safety Guide for Health Care Institutions (1994), Framework for a Comprehensive Health and Safety Program in the Hospital Environment (1993), and Guidelines for Protecting the Safety and Health of Healthcare Workers (1988).

Second, hospital and health science libraries can maintain a basic collection of information about their respective provincial workers' compensation system, including the Workers' Compensation Act and regulations, pamphlets and brochures explaining how compensation claims are submitted, policy and procedure manuals, and related material. At the very least, the library should be able to refer their clients to external resources, such as specific holdings in public libraries or the government agencies responsible for workers' compensation and occupational health and safety in their province or territory.

Finally, library workers should be aware of the potential injuries they themselves are exposed to on the job. These include carpal tunnel syndrome and repetitive strain injuries (27-31), as well as health hazards associated with visual display terminals (32-34) and even photocopiers (35). Ergonomic solutions aimed at workstation design may aid in alleviating some of these risks (36), along with modified, safety-oriented work procedures. CCOHS is presently considering development of a *Library Workers Health & Safety Guide*, so try checking their Web page periodically for announcements or calling their toll-free enquiries line for further details.

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Ontario Health Care Evaluation Network: Building Partnerships, Promoting Evidence

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The mandate of OHCEN is to

assist in building partnerships

among researchers and decision

makers in Ontario and to

improve the accessibility of

research evidence.

he OHCEN Inventory is a database available on the World Wide Web which can be used by health science librarians as a reference tool to supply crucial contact information for health care agencies and provide evidence-based resources to the members of their organisations. Health science librarians may further become involved with OHCEN by contributing to its development in a number of ways.

The Nature of Health Care Research

We all know that health care is changing. Shrinking budgets, restructuring, multi-skilling, outsourcing, managed care, primary health care reform and privatisation are commonly used terms in both academic and popular literature, and the media. Reference has been made to the creation of a new research culture, which will adapt to these changes through such avenues as institutional partnerships and an emphasis on evidence-based practice. (1)

Partnerships make the most of scarce resources and improve the flow of technology transfer which, in turn, facilitates research, development, planning, and policy implementation. Health care organisations, such as hospitals, have begun to develop strategic alliances with other groups and organisations in order to control costs, increase the accessibility and quality of care for patients and communities, and increase their influence within the health care

system. (2) These alliances take the form of joint programmes, networks, shared services, mergers or umbrella organisations.

This new research culture places an emphasis on epidemiological, evaluative, and evidence-based methodologies to ensure the quality of policy, research, and clinical decision-making. Encouraging researchers to acquire and apply evidence to health care decision

making continues to be a challenge despite the ever increasing research and resources in this area. Time pressure is cited as a common barrier faced by researchers; it greatly impinges on their ability to find, assess and utilise evidence based resources. (3) The time pressure factor is compounded by the fact that each of these steps is partly dependent on the successful completion of the preceding step(s).

As Canada's health services are restructured the need for better communication is becoming increasingly evident. Researchers and decision makers need to be able to quickly find the necessary information, whether that consists of contact information for a hospital or government agency, or access to evidence-based resources. This access is even more critical for institutions which are

either geographically remote or do not have access to an on-site information resource centre and so it has been further recommended that this information should be made available through the Internet. (4)

The Internet has become an important resource for evidence based health care and may very well become the main means by which scientific and medical information is disseminated due to its increasingly widespread availability, and reduced publishing and mailing costs. (5) The Internet offers access to such resources as MEDLINE via OVID, Silver Platter and Internet Grateful Med; full text information such as textbooks, practice guidelines, systematic reviews; medical journals such as Bandolier, Journal of Evidence Based Medicine; search engines such as Lycos, Open Text, Infoseek, Magellan; subject indexes such as MedWeb, Medical Matrix, CliniWeb; clinical computers and other diagnostic tools. (6) The added value of the Internet, especially for rural health care professionals, lies in the fact that it can also be used as a communication tool via discussion lists, newsgroups and e-mail.

Enter the Ontario Health Care Evaluation Network

As early as March 1993, a small group of health care researchers discussed the concept of a provincial network which would serve the needs identified above: 1) develop better linkages between

members of the research community, policy makers, practitioners, and the public, and 2) enhance the application of health care research in Ontario by promoting evidence based decision making. In November of that year, several hundred researchers discussed the relevance of their work with small groups of other researchers, practitioners, health planners and policy makers at a one day workshop entitled "Making

Health Services Research Relevant". Following this event, the framework for the Ontario Health Care Evaluation Network (OHCEN) was conceived.

OHCEN is funded by the Ontario Ministry of Health and currently chaired by Dr. William J. Sibbald at the University of Western Ontario. The mandate of OHCEN is to assist in building partnerships among researchers and decision makers in Ontario and to improve the accessibility of research evidence.

The OHCEN Inventory

To meet these goals, the Informatics team at the Health Information Research Unit (HIRU), McMaster University, led by Dr.

Robert Hayward, has developed an inventory of people and resources within a database management/publishing system called HIREx. This database is publicly available on the Internet and can be searched by keyword or by subject index. The HIREx system requires a java/frames enabled browser such as Netscape 2.x. However, a QuickSearch option is provided on the OHCEN

homepage for those whose Internet browsers do *not* have this capability, or who would prefer to search the Inventory using a more simplified interface.

In order to facilitate partnering, the OHCEN database provides contact information for individual researchers, research institutes, hospitals, public health units, district health councils, funding agencies, academic institutions, government departments, professional organisations, special interest groups, and conferences. Whenever possible, de-

scriptions of expertise are provided as well as e-mail addresses and hypertext links to pages on the World Wide Web.

The database also offers access to research evidence, which can take the form of references, abstracts, full text electronic documents and Internet resources. Those searching the OHCEN inventory also have access to the databases of other projects hosted at HIRU, most notably the Cochrane Collaboration, ACP Journal Club, Evidence Based Medicine, and the Guidelines Appraisal Project. These initiatives are well known for the dissemination of high quality information, such as Users' Guides to the Medical Literature and structured abstracts of clinical practice guidelines, which are relevant to evidence based decision making in health care.

Education and Support

While the OHCEN Inventory facilitates communication and dissemination of information, OHCEN is also committed to education and support. The OHCEN-L Discussion List announces

upcoming conferences and new Internet sites relevant to OHCEN members. It also serves as a forum for health care researchers and decision makers. Furthermore, search strategies to be used with OHCEN and related inventories are posted to the list. OHCEN staff are also happy to answer any questions you may have regarding OHCEN or related inventories. See the contact information supplied below.

Librarians could facilitate research transfer partnerships between those in their organisation and other organisations using contact information and expertise descriptions within the OHCEN Inventory.

Future projects include the

development or adoption of a

controlled vocabulary which will

facilitate the retrieval of desired

information, evaluation of the

OHCEN Inventory and, of course,

the ongoing challenge of

keeping information up to date.

Work to be Done

Until very recently, efforts at HIRU were directed towards implementing the HIREx system. Now an aggressive push is on to add content to the OHCEN Inventory, organise that information in such a way that it will be easy to find, create online help and instructional materials, and inform the health care public of its availability.

Content for the OHCEN Inventory is being collected in a number of ways. Internet resources are identified through relevant discussion lists such as CANMEDLIB, MEDLIB-L, MMATRIX-L, and Web4Lib; searches of the Internet using a variety of search engines and health-related subject indexes; and recommendations from OHCEN members.

Entities (individuals, professional organisations, research groups, academic institutions, etc.) have been located through the

Internet since an increasing number of these maintain web pages. OHCEN has also conducted a large mailing of registration forms to other entities and responses are now being returned.

A hierarchical index of categories with which to organise OHCEN content has been established. This system will likely be altered in the future as new resources or groups are identified.

Instructional materials will soon be available through the OHCEN web and FTP site. These will include a HIREx

help manual and tutorials presenting screen-captured images to guide users through an OHCEN search using actual health care problems.

We plan to reach the health care public by publishing information about OHCEN in newsletters of the Ontario Hospital Association, Ontario Medical Association, Ontario Nursing Association, Registered Nurses Association of Ontario, and regional health library associations.

Future projects include the development or adoption of a controlled vocabulary which will facilitate the retrieval of desired information, evaluation of the OHCEN Inventory and, of course, the ongoing challenge of keeping information up to date.

The Role of Librarians

Health care professionals are beginning to recognise the value of Internet resources but they have less time than ever before to search for information. Unlike more established databases, the vast array of Internet sites are not yet well indexed and finding "good"

information can be a very difficult task. However, health science librarians are well-positioned to incorporate the Internet into traditional reference services and take on the role of Internet navigators, interpreters, providers, and educators. (7.8,9,10)

While there is much work to be done before the OHCEN Inventory reaches its full potential we envision a mutually beneficial relationship between OH-CEN and health science librarians in Ontario. As a basic reference tool, OH-

CEN supplies contact information for individuals and organisations involved in health care, and it facilitates access to evidence based resources. But the OHCEN Inventory can serve as much more than a reference tool ... it can be used as a promotional tool for the library.

It is increasingly necessary for libraries to become involved in the activities of their organisations and they can do so by offering alternative services that involve the OHCEN Inventory. Note that the keynote address, to be delivered by Jane Dysart, at the annual conference of the Ontario Hospital Libraries Association in November is entitled Taking Charge of Your Future!

For instance, the OHCEN Inventory needs contact information and descriptions for individuals, research groups or institutes, and organisations. Health science libraries could serve as the collection coordinators for their organisations, submitting this information to OHCEN, or directly registering this information online. Librarians could facilitate research transfer partnerships between those in their organisation and other organisations using contact information and expertise descriptions within the OHCEN Inventory. Instruction to researchers and decision makers on how to use the Inventory is another potential service that could be offered by health science libraries. Whether librarians will simply use the inventory as a reference tool or incorporate it into their library services is a decision to be made by the library and will be depen-

dent on factors such as time and staffing.

We will also call on librarians, the expert searchers and organisers of information, to help us evaluate the OHCEN Inventory. Librarians will have key insights into relevant issues through interaction with their clients and therefore will be able to provide suggestions for OHCEN content and organisation.

How is this relevant to other health science librarians in Canada? There will still be occasions for librarians to access the Inventory, and related inventories, via the Internet to look for contact information and evidence based resources. The information presented here may also serve as incentive to other librarians to find out if similar initiatives are under way in their areas or provinces and to become involved in the collection, cataloguing, and use of these inventories, for the benefit of all those involved in health care, and ultimately, for the benefit of their profession.

Upcoming OHCEN Presentations

Society for Medical Decision Making 18th Annual Meeting

Improving Evidence-Based Decision Making and Research Transfer

October 13 - 16, 1996

Toronto, Westin Harbour Castle Hotel (416) 480-6100 x3882; hlt@ices.on.ca

Ontario Hospital Association Convention & Exhibition plus booth at OHA exhibit hall

Moving Ahead...Meeting the Challenge November 4 - 6, 1996 Mctro Toronto Convention Centre (416) 205-1300; mbatt@oha.com

OHCEN Symposium

Short courses featuring evidence based resources and critical appraisal, pub & poster session, dinner

November 3, 1996

Crown Plaza Hotel (Internet course at Institute of Pharmacy Management)

Dr. Jan Barnsley, (416) 978-1782; jan.barnsley@utoronto.ca or

Dr. Annette O'Connor, (613) 798-5555, cxt. 3865, (613) 562-5800, cxt. 8297; aoconnor@civich.ottawa.on.ca

OHCEN Information

OHCEN Homepage

http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/ohcen/default.htm

OHCEN Inventory

http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/cgi/hirexs.exe?START=ohcen

FTP Site

ftp://ohcen:nexus@hinu.mcmaster.ca

OHCEN Inventory QuickSearch (for Internet browsers which are not frames/java capable)

http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/ohcen/inventry/search.htm

Register yourself or your group with the OHCEN Inventory (use any of the following):

http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/ohcen/inventry/register.htm send e-mail to OHCEN@fhs.mcmaster.ca

call (905) 525-9140 x22594

fax (905) 546-0401; attention Anna Gagliardi, Coordinator, OHCEN Internet Information

OHCEN-L Discussion List

To subscribe, send the e-mail message SUB OHCEN-L FIRSTNAME LASTNAME to LISTPROC@fhs.mcmaster.ca and you will automatically receive further instructions.

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Author

After graduating from the Faculty of Information Studies at the University of Toronto, Anna Gagliardi worked in the capacity of Reference Librarian for the Health Science Library at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto before accepting her current position as Coordinator of Internet Information for the Ontario Health Care Evaluation Network, based at McMaster University. She worked at CISTI and the Science and Medicine Library, University of Toronto during the course of her library studies. Anna also holds a Bachelor of Education, a Masters degree in Biochemistry, and has taught at the high school level.

StatsMaster: Master Index of Health-Related Data Sources Residing in the British Columbia Ministry of Health

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Statistical data is in regular

demand by health planning staff

but the varied sources and

formats of such information

make it difficult to access easily.

Introduction

Responsible for Seniors (Ministry of Health) has a mandate to provide information services to Ministry personnel located both in Victoria and throughout British Columbia. The recent Closer to Home initiative has meant that the library will also be required to serve Regional Health Boards and Community Health Councils as they plan and develop community health services around the province. With this process of decentralisation, the Library's role of managing and providing information has become more challenging. Statistical data is in regular demand by health planning staff but the varied sources and formats of such informa-

tion make it difficult to access easily. To respond to this growing need, the Library created a document entitled StatsMaster: a master index of health-related data sources available within the Ministry of Health.

The StatsMaster indexes over eighty statistical sources of health information from annual reports, reference materials

and electronic databases that the Ministry holds or produces, many of which are unknown to staff and researchers. Users of the index can search for statistics in a given subject area and quickly learn what data are available and where they are published or maintained. The StatsMaster index, published first in print and later on the World Wide Web, has had two major effects: 1) it has removed some of the frustration experienced by researchers who may previously have been transferred from office to office while trying to locate a statistic; and 2) the StatsMaster has made it far easier for both library staff and researchers to locate specific statistics.

Building the Index

Format:

Following discussions with other library staff, Elizabeth Woodworth, the Ministry's head librarian, decided to develop an index of the statistics held by the Ministry. As a result, Steve Shewchuk,

a University of Victoria co-op student hired in April 1994, was assigned the task of creating and building the index. It was decided that the StatsMaster would consist primarily of two sections: Section A, a listing of the data sources, and the contacts for each, and Section B, a subject index. Statistical tables listed under Section B would list reference numbers directing the user to a specific data source description in Section A.

Database software:

Given the Library's limited database software resources, a compromise was necessary. Rather than purchase new software and spend time learning a new programme, existing software was modified to meet the needs of the StatsMaster. This trade-off

sacrificed potential flexibility but allowed work to begin immediately on the project. The Eloquent Librarian, the cataloguing system already used by the Library for its regular collection, runs off a Revelation platform, and is specifically designed to build electronic library catalogues. There were two reasons for choosing this software: 1) there were no

further costs associated with using it; and, 2) it could produce reports in the manner that had been conceptualised. A separate database was created for the statistical index. Although there were a number of drawbacks to using Eloquent, the final product was nonetheless quite acceptable.

Criteria for inclusion:

To keep the number of indexed data sources manageable and relevant, the following criteria for inclusion were developed:

- 1) The document/database had to contain health related data.
- 2) The document/database had to be on-going or updated regularly, to keep the information timely and relevant.
- 3) The document had to be available within the Ministry of Health or the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control (CDC)
- 4) The information had to be releaseable under the BC Freedom of Information and Privacy Act.

Indexing method:

Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) published by the National Library of Medicine were used to index the data sources. In addition to these standardised MeSH subject headings, geogra-

phies were also included to indicate whether the statistics were for British Columbia or Canada, or of international scope. See references were used to direct users to "search under" standardised terms. For example, searchers of cancer data are directed to "Search under Neoplasms." There were two results of using this format: 1) all users could access the

this format: 1) all users could access the material in a logical and organised manner; 2) library staff would

Although there were a number of

drawbacks to using Eloquent.

the final product was

nonetheless quite acceptable.

not require special training to index material.

Indexing process:

This was the labour intensive aspect of the process, and consumed much of the eight-month co-op work term. Each document was given an accession number, and within each document each statistic or statistical table was assigned subject headings. For shorter documents like annual reports this task was straightforward. For large electronic databases, however, the job of deciphering data dictionaries in order to find available reports was often quite difficult. Once accession numbers and subject headings were assigned, the data entry began. When completed, the StatsMaster contained more than 3,000 individual entries. Draft copies were printed and distributed to a number of users for review. Testers evaluated overall usefulness, clarity, spelling, and general formatting. The feedback received was positive, and with a few minor changes most testers were pleased with the index. The final printed edition used coloured paper for different sections to facilitate quick and easy access. In early 1995 the completed StatsMaster index was printed and distributed throughout the Ministry.

This was not the end of development of the StatsMaster, however, as Ian Herrin, another co-op student, began work in early 1996 on the second phase of development.

Converting to the Internet

With work on the Ministry of Health Library homepage underway in late 1995, it was decided to convert the printed StatsMaster

index to an HTML version. This effort was begun in January 1996, and required two months to complete. You can now access the StatsMaster at http://www.hlth.gov.bc.ca/library/librstat.html. What follows is a discussion of the process undertaken to change the original StatsMaster from its printed format to an electronic version on the World Wide Web.

With Internet access increasing across the province, the number of potential users will continue to increase. Moreover, the online version is easy to update, with few additional costs.

Homepage design:

A website was developed to mimic the original StatsMaster. As in the printed format, two main sections were designed: 1) the data source descriptions containing current contact information; and 2) a searchable statistical index. Users first browse a list of subject headings for an appropriate subject, where a link takes them to the actual index entries. The subject heading list was divided alpha-

betically with each letter (or group of letters) having its own section and links. This page is not as clearly developed as it could be, and will probably be modified over time. The idea behind this introductory page was to enable a user to easily scan the subject headings, select the one that they desired, and be able to move to

> the alphabetical section where the statistics were indexed.

> At this site, the user scrolls through the page to find an entry. From here, a link connects them directly to the data source description page, where the location of the data is given. Because the pages were developed in-house without

search engine programming expertise, the index does not employ a search engine. Rather, it requires the user to manually scroll through text files of index entries. Although it lacks the sophistication of other data sources on the Internet, the method used meant the index was made available online relatively quickly. The Library hopes to add a search engine to the pages eventually.

Conversion from the Eloquent Librarian System:

The limitations of Eloquent Librarian software precluded an easy download of ASCII files, and required that we "print" the index in three parts to a file on disk. After some trial and error and a little patience we found we could produce a relatively clean copy which contained all of the vital information. The files were imported into one Microsoft Word file which was subsequently divided into nineteen alphabetical index files, with several letters combined to ease the process and workload. The data source description section had been originally produced in WordPerfect, and was easily converted to HTML. Using HTML Writer, over 3,000 index entries were individually linked with their data sources, a job complicated by the formatting irregularities incurred during the software conversion. To facilitate manoeuvering through the index, navigational buttons were created using LVIEW, a graphics editing programme.

Testing the StatsMaster:

Once all pages and links were completed, we began testing the pages to see what further navigational aids should be added. It was decided that an arrow button should be added to provide a graphical link to the top of a page. As some of the indexes are quite long,

using scroll bars often takes a lot of time. We also designed several other buttons, such as "back to index" and "sources by subject," that would allow frequent users to jump stages and get directly to a site that they desired. We also had to check for formatting irregularities and ensure that all the links worked. These subtle changes turned a large and unwieldy document into a

useable and searchable electronic version of StatsMaster.

Current Status

Since the StatsMaster went online with the Library Homepage in February 1996, there have been no significant changes, although we plan to redesign the introductory page to make it more efficient. Many users have expressed their pleasure with the online

StatsMaster, which despite some clunkiness is now accessible to a much greater number of researchers than was the printed version. With Internet access increasing across the province, the number of potential users will continue to increase. Moreover, the online version is easy to update, with few additional costs.

Conclusion

A lot of effort and hours went into producing the StatsMaster, but the finished product is a unique tool of immense value to Ministry staff and health researchers around the province, not to mention library staff responding to reference queries. Users of both the print and electronic versions have offered positive feedback on

both its content and its organisation. The StatsMaster is by no means a static project, as Library staff are constantly updating the statistical sources. The difficulties and costs of producing printed copies mean fewer and less frequent printed editions are likely, with a greater emphasis placed on the online edition. The limitations of the Eloquent Librarian system will prove increasingly frustrating and will eventually require migration to a better system.

For more information on StatsMaster, we invite you to view our website at http://www.hlth.gov.bc.ca/library/ or contact the Library at (604) 952-2196 or write us at 1515 Blanshard Street, Victoria BC V8W 3C8.

Authors

A medical laboratory technologist turned librarian, Andy Buhler is a graduate of UBC (MLS '90) and has been employed by the Ministry of Health Library since 1991. As systems librarian, he was involved in the initial phases of the StatsMaster database design and implementation, and supervised StatsMaster's quantum leap from a local user inhouse database to a hyperlinked internet document.

Recently graduated from the University of Victoria with a BA in English, Ian Herrin is looking forward to beginning the Elementary Education Post-Professional Degree Programme. He has plans to develop his own homepage dedicated to providing teaching resources in order to encourage use of the Internet in Education.

Steve Shewchuk worked on the StatsMaster Index while earning a BA in English from the University of Victoria and graduated this year with distinction. He is currently employed as a technical writer at a small software company in Victoria. Lance Nordstrom received his MLS from the University of Alberta and held positions at the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology, Alberta Environmental Centre, and Alberta Research Council before joining the Workers' Compensation Board of British Columbia in 1990.

Minutes of the CHLA/ABSC Twentieth Annual General Meeting

Toronto, Ontario, June 16th, 1996

1.0 Call to Order at 9:10 a.m.

1.1 Introductions

L. Starr introduced K. Murray, MLA liaison to CHLA/ABSC, and from the Secretariat, D. Davey, J. Murray and A. Schachner.

1.2 Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted without amendments. Moved by E. Sutherland, seconded by B. Brown. Carried.

1.3 Adoption of the Minutes of the 18th Annual General Meeting

The minutes were adopted without amendments. Moved by D. Crawford, seconded by P. Yeh. Carried.

2.0 Business Arising

2.1 Code of Ethics

D. Sprung and E. Baldwin had examined a number of codes of ethics, and had recommended to the CHLA/ABSC Board that the MLA Code of Ethics be adopted, with a Canadian preamble. L. Starr asked the membership to forward their ideas to D. Sprung or E. Baldwin, and invited members to participate actively.

3.0 Board Reports

3.1 President

- L. Starr reported on a very active 20th year for the Association increasing contact with external institutions and associations while working to support the membership effectively in a period of significant change. A French translation of CHLA/ABSC standards for library & information services in Canadian healthcare facilities was published through ASTED. Use of the Standards as a management tool will be an ongoing focus. The Association participated in the National Library Core Statistics Program, and has constituted a Task Force on National Health Libraries Survey which will look at conducting a statistical Survey of health libraries in Canada.
- L. Starr acknowledged the achievements of the Task Force on Resource Sharing in furthering the implementation of DOCLINE in Canada, in looking at the larger question of union lists, and in meeting with national bodies including CISTI and NLC to coordinate resource sharing efforts. A number of resource sharing-related Development Fund applications were received in the last year. Copyright continued to be an issue; the Board renewed its contact with the Canadian Healthcare Association, and provincial associations, to encourage them to work with CANCOPY.

3.2 Public Relations

A written report was submitted by A. Laycock, who was unable to attend, and read by S. Wotherspoon. The main activity of the year

was the marketing of the Standards through advertising and promotion. A 20th Anniversary Poster was created to mark the achievements of the Association. Small and inexpensive publicity items to promote library services were produced; depending on their success more will be created.

3.3 Continuing Education

L. Wyndham reported on cooperative work with L. Devore, R. Vine and G. Beckett to offer and accredit the 1996 conference C.E. courses, and an Internet course that will be available to chapters close to Toronto. A new Fact Sheet on connecting to DOCLINE will be included in the next issue of *BMC*. No Student Paper Prize was awarded; one submission was received, but did not meet the award criteria. A C.E. questionnaire, distributed with *BMC*, has provided data to assist the Board in meeting the C.E. needs of the membership in the future.

3.4 BMC Editor

J. Johnson reported on a somewhat different year for the *BMC* editor, with her being geographically remote, and not in the middle of chapter activities. However, this had been circumvented by use of e-mail and fax, and she encouraged others from remote areas to participate. Publication of *BMC* moved from Re: Action to Medical Information Service, with Re: Action still printing the issues. The new editing team of D. Giustini as Editor and L. Blanchard as Assistant Editor may wish to re-examine the layout and printing arrangements. New hardware and software, including a laptop computer, was purchased to support the work of the Editor. J. Johnson thanked the Board and *BMC* contributors for their support, and D. Giustini for his work as Assistant Editor.

3.5 Treasurer

J. Henderson presented the audited financial statements for the year ending December 31, 1995, including the Statement of Income, Expenses & Capital, and the Balance Sheet. He noted that the major expenses included the production of *BMC*, publication of the Standards, and Task Force costs. He introduced the 1996 Budget, noting the revenue from membership dues approximately covers the costs of producing *BMC*. The other significant source of revenue in recent years to support Association activities has been the profit from the annual conference.

General discussion followed on the cost and appropriateness of publishing *BMC*, the possible over-reliance on anticipated conference profits, and membership trend and distribution. J. Greenwood noted that the conferences, and the running of the Association, were heavily subsidised by the volunteer efforts of members, so that conference fees themselves are subsidised. V. Ludwin felt that conference registration fees should remain low, as transportation and accommodation increase in price. G. Beckett noted that the Board has wished to keep membership fees low to encourage membership, and conference fees down to encourage attendance, and that the present discussion related to basic priorities of the Association. T. Flemming expressed his concern regarding *BMC*

costs, and suggested that alternatives, such as a Web publication, be considered. He anticipated less conference revenue in the future, and encouraged continuing discussion regarding the future form of *BMC* via CANMEDLIB. J. Henderson thanked G. Beckett for his support during his 5 years on the Board. Moved by J. Henderson, seconded by V. Ludwin, that K. Kimmerly be reappointed as Auditor for 1996. Carried. Moved by J. Henderson, seconded by J. Leishman, that the Auditor's report be approved. Carried.

3.6 Nominations & Elections Committee

G. Beckett announced that the following positions were filled by acclamation: Vice President/President Elect - L. Wyndham; Secretary - J. Joyce; Continuing Education - S. Wotherspoon. He commented that it was the first year for some time that there had been no election, and encouraged members to participate in what is a rewarding experience. He thanked all Board members for their support during his 5 years in office.

4.0 Other Reports

4.1 CISTI Advisory Subcommittee on Health Sciences Information

L. Starr reported that the subcommittee had met twice, with the report of the last meeting to appear in the next issue of *BMC*. CISTI feels that the advice of the subcommittee is valuable, and CISTI/NRC and MRC are looking at their relationship. She gave the membership of the subcommittee; the Association will recommend to CISTI that L. Starr now be replaced by L. Wyndham, and that L. Wilcox continue as the other CHLA/ABSC representative for another year. L. Starr asked for responses from the membership to CISTI issues to bring to the subcommittee.

4.2 Task Force on Resource Sharing

P. Ellis presented the Task Force report, highlighting progress with DOCLINE implementation across Canada, and the filling of the CISTI DOCLINE coordinator position. The Task Force met with CISTI, NLC, and also communicated regularly with ISM regarding AVISO developments. The Task Force surveyed all chapters regarding local union list activities, and was also concerned with the content and processing of SERHOLD tapes, and related CISTI and NLC union list work.

4.3 CCHSA Representative

L. Starr reported that J. Hatton is the current Representative, with J. McGowan the Assistant Representative. She noted the CCHSA is looking at how it might change to accommodate the present restructuring of the health care system.

4.4 OHLA Representative

J. McGowan named the current OHLA Executive, and noted that the closure of the OHA Library was a difficult issue in the last year. OHA has appointed a Task Force to look at copyright, with librarians among its members.

4.5 MLA Representative

K. Murray brought greetings from MLA, whose Board is looking at changing the MLA liaison role to be more active rather than just social.

4.6 ACMC/CMSL

E. Sutherland, chair of ACMC/CMSL, remarked that the Board is looking at a more active liaison with ACMC libraries; the CHLA/ABSC president is an ex-officio member of the committee, which is composed of the directors of the 16 Canadian medical school libraries, a CISTI representative, and a representative from the Health Canada Library. Resource sharing is a major issue for ACMC libraries; all but one of these libraries has agreed in principle to participate in DOCLINE. Almost half of ACMC libraries go to CISTI for documents after local resources have been exhausted. Also, the ACMC libraries supply documents to each other via ARIEL for \$5/transaction with 72 hours turnaround time.

The ACMC libraries are currently examining their regional role, as medical schools are being asked to provide more community services in their regions. Library mandates vary by institution, as do charging policies. A position paper on regional roles is being drafted for the fall. Medical school libraries are also currently concerned about the future of Statistics Canada publications, including the impact on the depository programme. More information is being requested from Statistics Canada.

5.0 New Business

5.1 20th Anniversary Professional Development Award

L. Starr announced the creation of this Award, which will be to a maximum of \$200. She was happy to announce that Readmore had agreed to sponsor the first Award. The purpose of the Award is to enhance access to professional development opportunities for individual CHLA/ABSC members.

5.2 Task Force on National Health Libraries Survey

L. Starr announced the formation of the Task Force, its members being D. Fitzgerald, J. Inglis, J. Marshall and E. Reid. The mandate of the Task Force is to prepare a proposal for the collection of statistics for benchmarking from health libraries across the country, and to oversee the implementation of the proposal if accepted by the CHLA/ABSC Board. The Task Force shall present its proposal with its timelines to the Board by the Winter 1997 Board Meeting. The proposal is to be implemented by the Winter 1998 Board Meeting.

5.3 Copyright

L. Starr noted that new copyright legislation is before the House; CLA has distributed information regarding its impact on libraries. Canadian Health Association Board will consider the issue; L. Starr felt they understand the need for a model agreement, and also understand the role of health libraries as expert advisors.

5.4 1998 Conference Location

L. Starr announced the 1998 Annual Conference will be in the Ottawa region, organised by the OVHLA chapter.

5.5 2000 Conference Location

At the invitation of MLA, the 2000 annual conference will be held in the Vancouver/Victoria/Whistler area, backing on to the MLA 2000 Annual meeting which is being held in Vancouver. There will be a national planning committee, with HLABC handling the local

arrangements. No site has yet been selected for the 1999 annual conference.

5.6 8th ICML

CHLA/ABSC has been invited to participate in the 8th International Congress on Medical Librarianship, to be held in London (U.K.) in 2000. J. Hewlett, chair, ICML Library Visits Committee, invited all to attend.

6.0 Other Business

6.1 1997 Conference

L. Howard invited everyone to the 21st Annual Conference in Vancouver from May 28 - June 1, 1997.

7.0 Transfer of Chair

L. Starr thanked the Board for their support during her Presidency, and acknowledged the outstanding contribution to the Association made by G. Beckett over the past 5 years. The Chair was transferred to S. Murray.

8.0 Adjournment

Moved by L. Wyndham that the meeting be adjourned. Carried. The meeting was so adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Report of the 1995/96 CHLA/ABSC President

Lea Starr

have met in new locations and we have worked to increase our contact beyond the CHLA/ABSC community. We have completed several projects and struggled with finding the most effective ways to support our membership through this time of ongoing change.

The Standards for Library and Information Services in Canadian Healthcare Facilities were published in time for the June 1995 conference. Agreement to have the Association pour l'avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation (ASTED) translate and publish the Standards in French was concluded this year. Marketing and work to implement the Standards have been a major thrust of CHLA/ABSCs work this year. Further efforts to implement the Standards document as a tool for ongoing management of library and information services rather than as a yardstick for occasional enforced measurement will be an ongoing focus. The Standards are now available in both official languages.

The Task Force on Resource Sharing has continued to be extremely active. They are progressing with their mandate to facilitate DOCLINE, evaluating union list activities, developing information packages, and bringing resource sharing issues to the Board. At their instigation, we had our Winter meeting in Ottawa, where we made connections with the National Library, CISTI, and the Canadian Library Association. CHLA/ABSC now has a voice on the NL Resource Sharing Initiatives.

Increased publicity about the CHLA/ABSC Development Funds has led to a rise in applications. The criteria and guidelines for application were revised to assist applicants in providing a full application. There were six projects funded during this past year; one consumer health directory, one chapter web site, and four DOCLINE initiatives.

The Board continues to deal with issues surrounding Copyright. The Fact Sheet on Copyright was published in BMC and on CANMEDLIB. It is currently being revised for publication in Leadership in Health Sciences. CANCOPY continues to approach the hospital libraries to negotiate contracts and the Board has continued to advise that the contracts must be negotiated at the

hospital administration level. The Ontario Hospital Association has just formed a taskforce to review copyright issues which includes several librarians. The Board has renewed its contact with the Canadian Healthcare Association to increase their awareness of the activities of CANCOPY. The CHA will likely begin work in this area in July. They have been provided with contact persons in the Toronto area and are aware of CHLA/ABSCs willingness to work with them. The Board will continue to work with other provincial hospital associations to encourage them to work with CANCOPY. Last spring the Board was invited to collaborate with MLA for the conference in the year 2000. We have accepted. As the 1997 Conference is also in Vancouver, we will have a national planning committee. The Board is cognisant of the large size of the MLA conference and will work to ensure that CHLA/ABSC has a strong profile.

Due to Kingston's withdrawal from hosting the 1998 conference, the Ottawa Valley/Hull Chapter has offered to have the conference in Ottawa. The Board is currently looking for a location for the 1999 conference. The Board has been increasingly aware of the impact of healthcare restructuring on health libraries and our membership. We have had several conversations with librarians who are working to maintain their positions or their libraries. The Board is assembling information that can be sent to persons in this situation. Also, the Board recognises the need to increase our profile beyond the profession. As President, I attended a local workshop of the National Forum on Health. The Board prepared a letter to be submitted to other organisations working in the area of information. This was sent to the Canada Institute for Health Information.

The Task Force on Standards for Library/Information Services in Canadian Health Facilities urged the Board to conduct a statistical survey of the health libraries in Canada. The Board has struggled with this challenge during the past year. In a time of restructuring, a snapshot of the current environment is very appealing. However, just as comparison of bed sizes is no longer considered to be an adequate evaluation of health facility activity and quality of patient care, journal collections size, staffing and numbers of books will not reveal the quality of library service nor its

impact within an institution. The Board has participated in the 1996 National Library Core Statistics Program by distributing the surveys to healthcare institutions. This subset will be collated for our use. A Task Force on National Health Libraries Survey has been formed to develop and implement a benchmarking survey.

Beginning last June, when we were joined at our Board meeting by Jana Bradley of MLA, we have worked to increase our connections beyond our own narrow community. At the pre-conference meeting we discussed ways to strengthen the MLA-CHLA/ABSC liaison. MLA has developed a significant number of programs which with slight modification will provide strong support to Canadian health librarians. The Board also met at CISTI in March, providing an opportunity to have an open discussion on areas of mutuality. This led to an increased understanding and a further commitment to work together. The Board also invited the Executive Director of CLA to our meeting. We learned a significant amount about CLA's thrust and opportunities for CHLA/ABSC involvement. From these meetings we are increasingly aware that people beyond CHLA/ABSC are unaware of our work and issues. We have many common areas and need to become more proactive beyond our own narrow community.

During the past year, CHLA/ABSC has considered various opportunities to provide the membership with an information resource on Canadian statistical health information. We recognize the need for a resource that is current, comprehensive and updated frequently. Further, the Board would like to see the information become Web-accessible but recognises that there must be a sustainable mandate for the creators. The Board would like to build on work that is being done and that would be of most benefit to the members. During the past year, the Board members have needed to obtain information from the archives. Ease of access to this material has been variable. Currently, Osler Library is putting the archives in order. This will be of benefit to our organisation.

The CE work continues to roll on. Lois Wyndham recruited excellent presenters for the TELEMEDICINE program but low

attendance is an issue which she wishes to evaluate. The CE courses at the CHLA/ABSC 1995 were well attended and received good evaluations. The CE courses for the 1996 conference have also received accreditation. A survey of the CE activities has been distributed through *BMC*.

Public relations has created marketing materials for CHLA.

The Board continues to review the costs of publishing *BMC*. During the past year, MIS became our desktop publisher. This has improved the look of the publication and the editor and publisher continue to work towards improvements.

A small task force led by Dee Sprung has reviewed various codes of ethics and recommended to the Board that CHLA/ABSC adopt the MLA Code of Ethics. She will work on a preamble to provide a Canadian context. Interested persons are encouraged to work with her via e-mail (freeport@watserv1.uwaterloo.ca).

Recruitment for the Board was exceedingly difficult. We are fortunate to have found three strong candidates who were elected by acclamation. The current climate of uncertainty as well as the demands placed on members by the restructuring activities has caused fewer people to volunteer for these important leadership positions. This is cause for some concern as these same factors will also drive the need for CHLA/ABSC to be strong and active at the national level.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the members of the CHLA/ABSC Board. They have been hardworking and great fun. This has been a year of transition as we completed many projects started in the last year and began to consider new directions and work. We have looked beyond our own membership to increase our linkages into the communities of libraries and health professionals. We can see many opportunities to play a role in the national sphere of health information. We must choose wisely and work together effectively to ensure that we continue to grow and thrive as a profession. I look forward to a year of meeting challenges and rising to opportunities under the capable leadership of our new president, Susan Murray.

Report of the Treasurer and Auditor's Report

Jim Henderson

he Association continued to enjoy good financial health in 1995. Sales of the second edition of the Standards for Library and Information Services for Canadian Healthcare Facilities raised income, assisted by a successful St. John's conference and money in interest-bearing investments longer than expected. Printing and publication costs rose, in small part due to the Standards. The cost of publishing Bibliotheca Medica Canadiana (BMC) was a concern and it is hoped that transferring layout and other pre-press work to the Secretariat in 1996 will reduce costs. With DOCLINE implementation, the Association was more successful in encouraging Development Fund applications. However, expenditures on this item were \$4,000 less than the \$7,000 budgeted.

As predicted, expenses were much more than receipts. In 1995, the Association lost more than \$13,000. This figure was not as high as the loss of \$24,250 budgeted. With representation from across Canada on the Board and much significant activity—a substantial

journal, the publication of the second edition of the *Standards*, and the continuing implementation of DOCLINE through the Resource Sharing Task Force--losses can be expected. We have, for the time being, funds to sustain such losses.

Support of CHLA/ABSC activities by the Secretariat continues to be most valuable and efficient. The translation into French of the *Standards* was arranged through ASTED at no cost to CHLA/ABSC. Royalties from the sales of the French edition will be received beginning in October 1996. We have applied to Revenue Canada for charitable status so that 50% of GST paid is refunded. At time of writing, this application is still in process.

Membership dues cover the publication of *BMC* and little more. I will raise for discussion at the Annual General Meeting whether we wish to have most other activities paid for by conference receipts. Is it reasonable to expect large profits on our Annual Meetings to fund important Association activities? The alternatives are to substantially reduce the cost of publishing our journal

or to increase membership receipts either through increasing the number of members or the annual dues.

I welcome questions on the accompanying Auditor's Report for 1995. A motion will be introduced at the Annual General Meeting to reappoint Mr. Kenneth D. Kimmerly as the Association's Auditor for 1996.

The 1996 budget predicts receipts and expenditures little changed from 1995. The Standards Task Force has been replaced by a Statistics Task Force to generate data to support standards implementation. Some reduction in printing and publication expenses is predicted. A laptop computer has been purchased for the *BMC* editor.

With George Beckett's departure from the Board after five years, I would like to thank him for his significant contributions to the Association generally and for his support of the Treasurer's position in particular.

Auditor's Report

Capital

To the Members of the Canadian Health Libraries Association:

I have audited the balance sheet of the Canadian Health Libraries Association as at December 31, 1995 and statement of income,

expenses and capital for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Association's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Association as at December 31, 1995 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Kenneth D. Kimmerly Chartered Accountant Etobicoke, Ontario

June 14, 1996

Canadian Health Librarie	es Associati	on
Statement I		
Balance Sheet		
December 31, 1995		
	1995	1994
Assets		
Cash in Bank	2,249	3,114
Accounts Receivable	1,135	659
		60,000
Advances - Conferences - Editor	2,000 416	2,000 547
	57,800	66.320
Investments Advances - Conferences	52,000 2,000 <u>416</u>	
s		

51,500

57,800

64.523

66,320

Canadian Health Libraries Association Statement II

Statement of Income, Expenses & Capital Year Ending December 31, 1994

	1 9 95	1994
ncome		
Membership Dues	25,210	25,120
Conference Income	9, <i>7</i> 81	23,370
Publication Sales	8,250	2,170
Promotion Sales	930	1,610
Interest Earned	3,095	9 81
Donation		50
	47,266	53,301
xpenses		
Printing, Postage, Courier	28,292	25,624
Travel and Meetings	12,470	8,579
Task Force	6,291	4,757
Audit Fee	800	800
Development Fund	2,873	
Awards	300	400
Secretariat Services	4,372	4,032
Secretariat Expenses	4,711	4,656
Promotion	97	580
Bank Charges	53	1
Sundry	30	82
	<u>60,289</u>	<u>49.511</u>
Excess of Income over Expenses		3,790
Excess of Expenses over Income	13,023	-
Capital		
Bałance - January 1	64,523	60,733
Add: Excess of Income over Expen	ses	3,790
Subtract: Excess of Expenses over	Income <u>13,023</u>	
Balance		
December 31	51.500	64.523

Members' Equity - Statement II

Public Relations Report

Anitra Laycock

Standards Marketing Activities

The production of the new Standards for Library and Information Services in Canadian Healthcare Facilities has been associated with a flurry of marketing activity during the past year. Order forms have been widely distributed across North America and beyond and requests for copies of the Standards have come from as far away as New Zealand. In the Fall of 1995 a French language version of the Standards was published by ASTED and is available through them.

In November 1995, an order form and letter was sent to all CHLA/ABSC Chapter Presidents promoting the *Standards* and advertisements for the *Standards* have appeared in *BMC*. Nevertheless sales are still below what we might expect considering the size of our membership and the particular importance of the *Standards* in this era of retrenchment. As of June 1996, 257 copies had been sold and 13 complimentary copies passed out.

20th Anniversary Poster

A poster marking the achievements of CHLA/ABSC and its growth over the first 20 years has been developed and is on display at the conference. Besides the very significant growth both in membership and in Chapter activities, a number of milestones mark these 20 years: *CANHEALTH*, the *Flower Report*, and the Task Forces on Standards, Workload Measurement, and Resource Sharing to name but a few.

Publicity Items

Concentrating on a simple and cheap way of promoting library services to our clients packs of bookmarks have been produced and are now available for purchase. It is anticipated that these designs will prove themselves useful in raising the awareness of our key role as information providers. They are available at the Conference and I hope that everyone will buy at least one pack to take back with them. Depending on the success of these items further promotional materials are in the works for the near future.

Membership

Regular and Institutional memberships, which comprise around 90% of memberships in the Association have declined slightly (4%) in the past two years from 401 in 1994 to 384 in 1996. Looking at membership figures for the last 20 years 300 would be an average number for personal/institutional memberships so that it is hard to know if there is any long term significance to the present decline. Given the economic situation, in particular the job uncertainties faced by perhaps a majority of our members, it is certainly the case that membership, now more than ever, must be seen to play a major advocacy role in our profession.

Member/subscriber comparisons 1994-1996:

	June 12	May 28	May 30
	1996	1995	1994
Institutional	107	1 11	120
Regular	277	281	281
Emeritus	4	2	3
Student	3	6	4
Subscriber	20	19	20
Complimentary	12		**
Life	10		
Total	433	419	428

Continuing Education Report

Lois Wyndham

his second year of my term as Continuing Education Coordinator has been an active and, I feel, a productive time-despite the fact that I feel I've accomplished only a portion of what I would like to have done. Two Fact Sheets have been produced-one on World Wide Web by Tom Flemming, and one entitled Connecting to DOCLINE by George Beckett.

Once again, I had the opportunity to work with the Conference CE committee, Linda Devore and Rita Vine and commend them for their hard work in putting together an excellent list of courses with lots of variety. George Beckett, wearing his Past-President's hat was co-accreditor for these courses. George and I also accredited the course Internet Basics: Focus on Medicine and Health, developed by Rita Vine and Jenny Reiswig. This course is normally offered through the Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto, but is also available for local chapters to offer.

I am sorry to tell you that there will be no Student Paper Prize this year. There were a number of queries about the contest but only one submission. Reviewers this year were Jeanette Buckingham, from University of Alberta, Jan Johnson, Editor of *BMC* and myself; we were unanimous in our decision that the paper did not meet the criteria for the award.

One of my major activities this year has been the development of a questionnaire on Continuing Education needs and activities among our members. 450 questionnaires were distributed with the number 3 issue of *BMC* and 105 were returned as of June 6, for a response rate of 23%. I would like to thank all those who made comments and suggestions or notes to clarify a particular response. The results have been compiled and presented to the Board and will be used to guide our CE activities over the next few years. Preliminary results have also been sent to the Vancouver Confer-

ence Committee to use in planning their CE courses. Highlights should appear in an upcoming issue of *BMC*.

Last but not least--in the hope that you might never have to view an unreadable overhead, a tip sheet on effective use of audiovisual material in presentations has been developed and will be available as part of the Conference Planning Guide and through the CE Coordinator. Once again, it has been a pleasure working with many of you over the past year--I feel I have certainly learned far more than I have been able to contribute--and I know I leave you in excellent hands with Shelagh Wotherspoon as your next CE Coordinator.

BMC Editor's Report

Jan Johnson

number of significant changes took place for *Bibliotheca Medica Canadiana* this past year. Beginning with volume 17 number 2, the Editorship moved for the first time to a relatively isolated location, nearly 800 kilometres from any major urban centre. This had implications for materials gathering and delivery, but as the editing term unfolded, courier delays were in large part circumvented with the use of e-mail and fax transmissions. Although the disadvantages of being at a remove from a large population base and provincial chapter activities were apparent, the experience has served to confirm that involvement in the Association is possible from a considerable distance, and I would encourage colleagues who are interested in volunteering to do so, wherever their location.

Effective with the number 3 issue, desktop publishing responsibilities shifted from the Toronto publishing firm of Re:Action Marketing Services to Dorothy Davey of Medical Information Services. Re:Action remains involved in the printing process, but as the new team familiarises itself with the production process, printing options will be closely examined for cost effectiveness. It is hoped that once production is ongoing, the change in publisher will reduce costs associated with the *BMC*, and factors such as length, layout, font size, white space and attractiveness to advertisers can be re-examined. Advertising revenues continue to be unreliable, with only two corporate ad submissions throughout this volume.

Yet another change took place in time for the production of issue number 4. New computer hardware and software were purchased to bring the editing process up to date. The DOS version of WordPerfect and the IBM 386, lacking communications capabilities, were replaced in March with a Pentium laptop, Windows 95, WordPerfect 6.1 and a 28.8 modem. The Windows environment greatly facilitates editing, and the high-speed modern allows ongoing communications and the possibility of downloading e-mail documents. Further advantages are the laptop's portability, easing the transfer of hardware from one Editor to another, and enabling the Editor to travel with it, thereby allowing its use by Board meeting participants.

In personal terms, my twenty-four months of involvement with the BMC have been extraordinary ones. I'd like to thank the dedicated and hard-working CHLA/ABSC Board members for their support, and for allowing me the opportunity to take on this role. Contributors from across Canada and into the United States have made this a rewarding experience and I thank them for their enthusiasm and good humour. Thanks are also due Dorothy Davey for her capable handling of publishing responsibilities, Re:Action for allowing an agreeable transition arrangement, and Dean Giustini for his editing assistance. The Editorship now travels back over the Rockies, eastward to Dean in Calgary and to Laurie Blanchard, who will be assistant editing from Winnipeg, in the heart of Canada. Best wishes to them both.

Report of the CHLA/ABSC Task Force on Resource Sharing

Patrick Ellis Chair, TFRS

ottawa. Between meetings we have been in regular consultation via Internet, phone etc. The principal focuses of our activities follow:

- A. Union List Survey: The task force surveyed all chapters on union list activities. A summary report is due in the latest *BMC*. Editorially the multiplication of effort, the complete lack of linkage between these union lists are concerns.
- B. DOCLINE Buddies: Since last year's meeting in St. John's, TFRS has created a "buddy" network with all the chapters of CHLA. Through the Buddies, we have been able to distribute and solicit information.
- C. Newsletter: A newsletter was published and distributed via the Buddies that incorporated ideas on organising DOCLINE user groups and routing tables.
- D. Dr DOCLINE: This became a regular advice column in *BMC* on all things Doclinear subsequent to the St John's meeting.
- E. CHLA/ABSC Information Update on DOCLINE for Canadian Libraries: This document was updated and released via CAN-MEDLIB in May.
- F. CISTI: The task force met with Leo Grigaitis, Cameron Mac-Donald and Dianne Pammett at CISTI in February. This was a very productive meeting with our CISTI colleagues joining in well beyond the "CISTI" section of the agenda. Items covered included

many the board will be aware of through other routes. But the task force wishes to communicate the following: 1) enthusiastic endorsement of the filling of the DOCLINE Coordinator position; 2) that the delays in the most recent SERHOLD load signal a demand for our association to recognise its responsibility to maintain a liaison with CISTI on DOCLINE related issues beyond the task force's term; 3) gratitude for the cooperation, institutional and personal, patience and humour of the people we have worked with at CISTI.

- G. NATIONAL LIBRARY OF CANADA (NLC): Early in our mandate the task force realised that NLC initiatives resource sharing and our own were proceeding in isolation from each other. We recognised the need to open the lines of communication. A meeting with Gwynneth Evans, David Balatti, Carole Smale and Jane Beaumont was arranged for the day after our meeting with CISTI, (March 1 1996). It was also a very productive meeting, in which information and concerns were shared and much was learned. Issues raised with NLC were of two broad classes:
 - 1) VIRTUAL UNION CATALOGUE:
 - a) membership;
 - b) scope;
 - c) interconnectivity;
 - d) flexibility and currency;
 - e) document delivery;
 - f) Union lists
 - 2) DOCLINE:
 - a) foreign system;
 - b) MARA process (backlogs and future);

- c) maintenance of SERHOLD;
- d) CISTI's role;
- e) subject crossover
- H. AVISO: The dilemma of implementing DOCLINE for libraries managing their ILL traffic with AVISO has resulted in a very lively correspondence with ISM. After assurances in St. John's that a DOCLINE compatible version of AVISO would be available soon there was an extensive silence on all things DOCULAR from ISM. The task force determined to ask ISM for a status report publicly over several listservs (ILL, CANMEDLIB, BIBCANLIB). We are pleased to report that Beta tests are either underway now, or imminent.
- I. NLC Resource Sharing Meeting at CLA: The task force was invited to take part in NLC's Resource Sharing Meeting, June 5, in Halifax. P. Ellis attended and reported on both the initiation of DOCLINE in Canada and the issues surrounding resource sharing in our community.

J. 1996 Conference:

- Arranged for panel discussion on trends in Resource Sharing with guest speakers: Beth Morrison, BC-Alberta DOCLINE trial, Gwynneth Evans, NLC Initiatives and the Virtual Canadian Library.
- 2. Display of Chapter Union Lists.
- 3. Learning lunch with task force members.

It has been a very lively year, a lot has been learned, and many people have helped along the way. Thank you.

Report to CHLA/ABSC from the Ontario Hospital Libraries Association

Jessie McGowan OHLA President, 1996

t is my pleasure to report to CHLA/ABSC the activities of the Ontario Hospital Libraries Association (OHLA).

1996 OHLA Executive

Past President	Dee Sprung, Kitchener
President	Jessie McGowan, Ottawa
President-Elect	Elizabeth Reid, Toronto
Secretary	Barbara Murray, Thunder Bay
Treasurer	Deborah Lambert, Toronto
Education Committee Chair	Janet Joyce, Ottawa
Newsline Editor	Janice Pividor, London

Regional Representatives

Region 1	Catherine Walsh, Thunder Bay
Region 2	Anne Le Brun, Ottawa
Region 3	Elizabeth Reid, Toronto
Region 4	Elaine Baldwin, Kitchener
Region 5	Christina Woodward, London

1995 Annual Meeting

OHLA celebrated its tenth anniversary as an Allied Group Member of the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) at the November 1995 Annual Conference. At this conference two awards were presented: the Award of Outstanding Achievement was presented to Verla Empey, and the Honorary Life Membership Award was presented to Thelma Bisch. We were very pleased to honour both. The conference sessions included "The Three Rs: Regionalisation, Restructuring, and Rationalisation" (Lea Starr), a panel discussion, "Setting up the Information Management Team", and a session on "Consumer Health Information: From Theory to Practice" (Joanne Marshall, Jennifer Bayne, and Gale Carew).

The 1996 conference has been reduced from a full day to half day. This will allow all conference attendees time to visit other sessions and the exhibitions. The 1996 Conference's theme is "Moving Ahead...Meeting the Challenge", and is being planned by President-Elect Elizabeth Reid. It promises to be a very exciting morning with sessions on fee-based services, OHCEN (Ontario Health Care Evaluation Network), and a keynote by Jane Dysart entitled "Taking Charge of your Future."

Association Activities

The OHA has sponsored two Internet workshops in conjunction with OHLA and the Ontario Health Management Information Systems Association. Both sessions featured Jim Carroll, recognised leading expert on the Internet in Canada, and authors of the

Canadian Internet Handbook, The Canadian Internet Advantage: Opportunities for Canadian Business and Organisations, and the Canadian Internet Directory. These sessions were focussed on those involved with establishing an Internet/WWW strategies for their institutions. Both sessions were co-chaired by Jessie McGowan.

OHLA continues to collaborate with CHLA/ABSC in the planning and production of the Telemedicine Series. OHLA has established an education fund to encourage its members to set-up their own education sessions within the regions.

In light of the impending new Copyright Legislation, OHLA will chair a task force on copyright with the OHA. The task force will include librarians from different regions of Ontario, legal council, and a person representing hospital printing shop interests. It is hoped that this task force can provide useful information to all Ontario hospital, especially those areas of the hospital who are directly involved in this issue.

OHLA continues to publish its directory of members and its newsletter *Newsline*. *Newsline* continues to be a very informative quarterly thanks to its great editorial leadership. It contains information complied by the regional representatives, a list continuing education opportunities, a column called *Cybrarian at Large* with

lots of Internet information, reviews, a job mart, and other occasional columns.

OHA Restructuring

In the winter of 1996, the OHA implemented a restructuring plan. This included a reduction of staff plus the elimination of the OHA Library. Ontario hospital libraries and OHLA were very upset by this news and lodged a letter campaign from OHLA members and other OHA Allied Groups. The OHA formed a task force with various Toronto hospital librarians, including Elizabeth Reid (OHLA President-Elect) to look at how best to divest of the Association's Library. The collection that was retained by The Toronto Hospital Libraries will be accessible by the end of June. Please call Health Search at The Toronto Hospital (416) 340-3259 for details. The OHA has not finalised plans for AV services. The book sales service has been dropped.

Addendum

I would like to thank John Tagg for his dedication to OHLA as the OHA Liaison and other previous roles and services that he provided to OHLA members.

CHLA/ABSC Hospital Librarian of the Year for 1996

Charlotte Beck

Charlotte Beck is the sole librarian and staff member at the R.C.Talmey Library, Richmond Hospital in Richmond, B.C. She has been awarded the Hospital Librarian of the Year Award for 1996 by CHLA/ABSC. President Lea Starr presented Charlotte with the Hospital Librarian of the Year Award at the annual conference banquet in Toronto.

The nomination from the Health Libraries Association of B.C. clearly identifies why Charlotte is an excellent choice for the Hospital Librarian of the Year Award:

She started at Richmond Hospital in February 1991, and singlehandedly resurrected the closed Library from its storage in Health Records. Charlotte has expanded the focus of the formerly 'physicians only' collection to serve the Hospital's multidisciplinary health professionals.

"... Charlotte has become very involved with HLABC, the local Chapter of CHLA/ABSC. She has worked on the Consumer Health Committee, is the Chair (on a rotating basis) of the Hospital Libraries Committee, and has been a very active member of the DOCLINE User's Group, and its coordinating body, the DOCLINE Working Group, since their inception in 1993.

"Charlotte has become one of Canada's strongest advocates for DOCLINE. She is currently serving a two year appointment, as a member of the CHLA/ABSC Resource Sharing Taskforce.

"Charlotte epitomizes the best of Librarianship. She is involved and enthusiastic. She not only has the energy to deal effectively with the consuming demands of running a hospital library by herself, ... she gives her time willingly to promote ideas and issues that she feels are important to our profession.

Charlotte is clearly a librarian who has made a difference. She has set an example that all of her colleagues can admire and seek to attain.

Congratulations, Charlotte. You are indeed a well-deserved CHLA/ABSC Hospital Librarian of the Year!

Submitted by George Beckett Chair 1996 Nominations & Elections Committee

CHLA/ABSC Twentieth Anniversary Professional Development Award

Terms of Reference

he CHLA/ABSC Twentieth Anniversary Professional Development Award was created in June 1996 at the time of the Toronto Pre-conference Board Meeting. The purpose of the Professional Development Award is to enhance access to professional development opportunities for individual CHLA/ABSC members.

The amount of a Twentieth Anniversary Professional Development Award shall be a maximum of \$200. The number of awards available shall be set by the Board of Directors annually at the fall Board meeting for the following fiscal year.

The Board shall form a committee consisting of the Continuing Education Director, Past-President and Treasurer to review all applications and make awards at its discretion on behalf of the Board.

If the recipient of an award is unable to attend the funded professional development activity, or the activity is cancelled, the amount of the award must be returned to the Association.

Within four weeks of the completion of the activity, recipients of the award must submit to the Continuing Education Director a brief report on the activity and its benefit.

Procedures for Applications

Applications for awards must be received by the current Continuing Education Director a minimum of six weeks before the activity for which support is sought. Applications must conform to the Guidelines for Application for Professional Development Award Funding (see below).

Applicants will be notified of the disposition of their application within one month of receipt of the application by the current Continuing Education Director. All enquiries and correspondence concerning the award should be directed to the CHLA/ABSC Continuing Education Director.

Eligibility Criteria

- 1. Applicant must be a current CHLA/ABSC member.
- Applicant must not have received a CHLA/ABSC Twentieth Anniversary Professional Development Award in the previous two calendar years.

Members of the CHLA/ABSC Board are not eligible for the award

Factors to be Used in Evaluating Applications

- 1. Whether the activity is an accredited CHLA/ABSC or MLA continuing education activity.
- 2. Availability of funding from other sources for the requester to attend professional development activities.
- 3. Availability of relevant professional development activities in the applicant's geographic region.
- Relevance of the professional development activity to the improvement of health and health care by promoting excellence in access to information.

Guidelines for Application for Funding

Please include the following information when requesting an award:

1. General Information

- a. name, institutional affiliation, contact address, telephone number, e-mail address (if available) of the person requesting the award
- b. deadline for notification of requester of approval/rejection of award

2. Professional Development Activity Information

Provide a description of the activity ior which funding is sought, including information about the following:

- a. title of the activity
- b. name(s) of the individual(s) and/or organization(s) providing the activity
- c. brief summary of the activity
- d. identify the benefits of the activity to the requester

3. Financial Information

- a. expected total cost of attending the activity
- b. amount of funding available from other sources to attend the activity
- c. amount requested from CHLA/ABSC

CHLA/ABSC Chapter Reports

Health Libraries Association of British Columbia

President Beth Morrison

Library, BC Cancer Agency 600 West 10th Avenue Vancouver, BC V5Z 4E6

Tel: (604) 877-6000 x2692 Fax: (604) 872-4596

Internet: bmorriso@bccancer.bc.ca

Vice President/President Elect Wendy Hunt

Secretary Elsie de Bruijn

Treasurer Patricia Fortin

HLABC Forum Co-Editors & BMC Correspondents

Cathy Rayment & Pat Young

Membership

63

British Columbia started the transition to health governance by Regional Health Boards this year following the recommendations of the Royal Commission report "Closer to Home". Health libraries all over the province immediately started feeling the consequences. In response to concerns about regionalisation issues, HLABC initiated a series of meetings about the future of health libraries in BC. The goal of these meetings is to develop a strategic plan to help member libraries cope (and hopefully, flourish) in a climate of change.

In addition to these exceptional meetings we held four general HLABC meetings this year. Our September meeting at the University of British Columbia's Woodward Biomedical Library was spent brainstorming and planning for the CHLA/ABSC '97 Annual Conference. Woodward Library hosted another meeting on

November 30th, with Dr. Neil Towers of UBC's Botany Department speaking on ethnobotany and traditional uses of medicinal plants. The Justice Institute of BC hosted a meeting on Feb 29th. Guest speaker Ross McIntyre gave a talk on "Earthquake preparedness for libraries" and took participants on a "safety" tour of their wonderful new library. (Not a very romantic topic, but something BC libraries need to think about at least every four years!) Our Annual General Meeting and Dinner was held May 10th at the College of Physicians and Surgeons Building.

We received a development grant from CHLA/ABSC to create and maintain an HLABC Web Site. Work on this project is underway, and we plan to include online access to the last two years of our newsletter, the *HLABC Forum*.

DOCLINE has been changing the face of library ILL and resource sharing in BC for several years now. In January 1996 the DOCLINE User's Group (DUG) started a pilot project with libraries in Alberta, to see if our successful experience can be extended as easily across provincial boundaries. This project will be evaluated and will be published in *BMC* upon its completion. In May 1996 DUG formally came under the HLABC wing along with the Union List Committee, to become part of the Resource Sharing Committee.

HLABC is gearing up to host the next CHLA/ABSC Annual Conference, to be held in Vancouver May 28 through June 1, 1997. The theme of the conference is "Drawing Closer, Reaching Further". For more information check the conference web site at URL http://www.library.ubc.ca/life/chla97/.

Cathy Rayment HLABC Forum Co-Editor, 1995-96

Northern Alberta Health Libraries Association

Membership	28
Treasurer	Sheila Fynn
Secretary	Linda Bumstead
Past President	Marlene Dorgan
Vice President & BMC Correspondent	Georgia Makowski
	Tel: (403) 427-8720 Fax: (403) 427-1643 Internet: yehpeg@mail.health.gov. ab.ca
President	Peggy Yeh Alberta Health Library Services Branch 9th Floor, 10025 Jasper Avenue Edmonton, AB T5J 2P4

his year has been a year of consolidation, planning and implementation for the Regional Health Authorities in Alberta. The demand for information increased, especially from the general public. Consumer health is on health reform agendas across the country. The emphasic is on consumers making health decisions for themselves and their families.

The consumer health information directory in Edmonton and area project initiated by NAHLA last year was completed this year. A Task Force was struck in July to plan, compile and produce the directory. In October 1995, NAHLA received \$1000 from the CHLA/ABSC Development Fund as a result of a proposal Marlene Dorgan and I made. After weeks of hard work, especially on the part of Linda Slater, survey questionnaires were sent out in February 1996. Data received was sorted and analysed. The directory was produced in June. Marlene and I did a poster presentation on our project at the CHLA '96 conference in Toronto. True to the theme of "Creative Connections" this was a collaborative venture of different types of libraries in Edmonton.

Topping the list of interests to NAHLA members was health system restructuring. We were very fortunate to have Larry Odegard as the guest speaker on this topic for our workshop on November 2, 1995. Larry was the vice president of Planning and Evaluation, Capital Health Authority (CHA). His talk covered the overview of the changes in the health care system. He also gave us an account of how CHA faced the challenges in its planning and implementation processes.

The topic of our workshop on March 6, 1996 was "Professional negligence: legal liability of librarians". The speaker was Lillian MacPherson, Law Librarian, University of Alberta Libraries. As the topic was of general interest to librarians, the Executive decided to open the workshop to all librarians in the city. It was advertised in a number of local library newsletters. The response was excellent. At the request of those who could not attend this workshop and with Lillian's permission, the presentation was taped. The tape is available for loan. An extensive bibliography is also available on request.

Alternative or complementary therapies are gaining attention and popularity. For our workshop on April 25, 1996 the topic we had chosen was Reiki. Our speaker was Anny Slegten of the Reiki Training Centre of Canada. Ms. Slegten is a Reiki master and provided us with an informative session on the topic.

Our social event of the year was the Christmas lunch on December 1 at the University Faculty Club. The turnout was excellent.

There was no speech or programme--just a gathering of friends and colleagues.

The Hospital Libraries Group met monthly throughout the year. The major achievement this year was in becoming DOCLINE libraries. We worked together on our routing tables, discussed policy issues and assisted each other in signing on. Gail Moores acted as our coordinator in working out a collaborative arrangement with British Columbia DOCLINE libraries.

NAHLA participated in the Partners in Education Programme for 1995/1996. Working librarians acted as mentors for half a day to students from the University of Alberta School of Library and Information Studies. There were two Partner's Days. The programme ended with a social gathering at the Faculty Club on January 26th. NAHLA as usual made a contribution towards the food and drinks for the party.

A call for nominations went out in early May for the 1996/1997 Executive. The new executive was announced at the Annual General Meeting on May 30, 1996.

President: Georgia Makowski
Vice President: Della Jacobson
Secretary: Linda Seale
Treasurer: Sheila Fynn

Peggy Yeh

NAHLA President, 1995-96

Southern Alberta Health Libraries Association

President Kim Polvi & BMC Correspondent Rockyview

Rockyview Hospital Library Calgary District Hospital Group

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Vice President

& President Elect Alix Hayden

Past President Judy Osborne
Secretary & Treasurer Dean Giustini

Membership 26

lix Hayden is working on a project to make a SAHLA Home Page available on the World Wide Web. We plan to use the Internet to distribute our newsletter, minutes, member lists and CHLA/ABSC news to our members and other interested parties.

The DOCLINE trial with HLABC and NAHLA is proceeding well. Our members have succeeded in tackling the communication problems, our holdings are in SERHOLD and the requests keep rolling in. Our DOCLINE Users Group will conduct an interim evaluation of the trial in June, 1996. We are also discussing how to proceed with the annual SERHOLD update.

I am proud to report that two of our executive, Alix Hayden and Dean Giustini, attended the five day Northern Exposure to Leadership Institute at Emerald Lake in February, 1996. The Institute, sponsored by Dynix Canada Ltd., gave Dean and Alix an opportunity to network with 25 colleagues from across Canada to explore their leadership potential through a series of workshops and group discussions. Both Alix and Dean described it as a "tremendous experience" and came back from the Institute enthused and enlivened.

Healthcare reform continues in Alberta. I am saddened to report: The Salvation Army Grace Hospital was closed. The Library was dispersed and the Foothills Hospital Library was fortunate in receiving many of the back journals.

The Holy Cross Hospital was closed. The Library and departmental collections were reallocated to the Rockyview site, when possible, or discarded. 27 boxes of clinical and nursing journals were shipped to Cambodia and Thailand.

The Bow Valley Centre, the "downtown" site of the Calgary General Hospital is scheduled for closure in April, 1997. Discussions on what to do with the collection are ongoing.

Elizabeth Kirchner, the Head Medical Librarian at the Bow Valley Center since 1981, retired in January, 1996. Eleanor Bryan, the Reference Library Assistant at the University of Calgary Medical Library since 1980, retired in February, 1996. We wish them well in the future.

The hospital libraries in Calgary have merged to form one service. The Acute Care Sector Libraries include the Foothills Hospital, Alberta Children's Hospital, Bow Valley Centre, Peter

Lougheed and Rockyview Hospitals. The merger will affect all processes and all ACS Library staff are currently meeting to discuss operational concerns. I have been appointed Manager of the Acute Care Sector Libraries (the hospital libraries in Calgary) and am looking forward to collaborating with my SAHLA colleagues on the immense changes and challenges facing us all.

My term as President will be over in the fall. I have enjoyed serving on the SAHLA executive and wish to thank Alix and Dean for their support and encouragement. I know they will ably handle their new duties, Dean as incoming editor of BMC and Alix as incoming SAHLA president.

Kim Polvi SAHLA President, 1995-96

Saskatchewan Health Libraries Association

President Lily Walter-Smith

Wascana Rehabilitation Centre

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Tel: (306)766-5441 Fax: (306)766-5554

Envoy: SRSH.WASCANA

President Elect

& BMC Correspondent Terry Bouchard Treasurer Shirley Blanchette

Secretary Bonnie Piercy

Membership 30

ur chapter met twice in the past year. The May 12th spring meeting was hosted by Alice Lalonde and held at Saskatchewan Nurses Association (SRNA) in Regina. The morning was dedicated to Internet. We viewed two videos, one entitled "The Funny Side of the Internet", which proved most amusing and set the tone for the presentation by the representatives from Sask Tel. Lynn Kozun from Saskatchewan Health updated the membership on the work done by the Multi-Type Library Committee and their progress regarding the Province-wide Library Information System, PLEIS. The day ended with a tour of the SRNA's Resource Centre and a demonstration of InMagic.

Our September 25th meeting was held at the Murray Building. University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon. The end of the business meeting generated a great deal of discussion around the need for a brochure for SHLA, and consequently a draft copy was drawn up by the members. As a result, a mission statement was required, so a brainstorming session took place and the following mission statement was approved:

The mission of the Saskatchewan Health Libraries Association is to provide access to a network of information for the wellbeing of the people of Saskatchewan.

CHLA/ABSC provided funding for the DOCLINE workshop presented by Jim Henderson from the BC Medical Library Service. An ad hoc committee was struck to look into the feasibility of entering into such a venture.

Lily Walter Smith SHLA President, 1995-96

Manitoba Health Libraries Association

President

Bill Poluha & BMC Correspondent

Health Sciences Library University of Manitoba 770 Bannatyne Avenue Winnipeg, MB R3E 0W3

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Internet: poluha@cc.umanitoba.ca

Vice-President/President Elect David Colborne Past President

Treasurer

Secretary

Laurie Blanchard Edith Konoplenko Mary Lynne East

Editor, MHLA News Pam Green

Membership 50

ith continued rationalisation in health care spending, the Manitoba Health Libraries Association has continued to lay the groundwork for strengthening our resource sharing and promoting greater awareness of the necessity of access to quality health care information.

On the theme of resource sharing, we got off to a good start with implementing DOCLINE. Last September we held a DOCLINE workshop. Thanks to the work of Bev Brown and Laurie Blanchard, our association received a CHLA/ABSC development fund grant to have Jim Henderson of the Library Services of the British Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons conduct workshops for both MHLA and SHLA. At our fall general meeting. we passed a motion to proceed with DOCLINE implementation in Manitoba and passed another motion to cover the initial DOCLINE fee and the cost of converting and uploading our serials holdings records into SERHOLD. A DOCLINE implementation committee has been created to plan the process and will continue its work into the new membership year.

Dramatic developments in health care funding have necessitated promoting the issue of access to health care information. In response to this, a committee has been formed to write a position paper on access to quality health care information. The paper will outline the current status in Manitoba, how access to medical information can reduce health care costs and propose solutions. With the position paper, MHLA hopes to begin a dialogue with the Provincial Government to address the implications of this issue. The committee will have the first draft of the paper ready for our annual general meeting this spring.

Two business meetings have been held and a third is planned. The fall meeting was held after a fine meal at the Cooking Studio last October. The winter meeting was held at the Deer Lodge Centre in February. Our annual general meeting will be held in May during the Manitoba Libraries Association Joint Spring Conference.

Several good programmes were held this past year. As mentioned earlier, a DOCLINE workshop was held last September. In November, we participated in the Manitoba Health Organization's (MHO) conference as an exhibitor. This helped to raise awareness of MHLA in the health care community and to promote how access to medical information can save on health expenditures. Greatest interest was expressed from health professionals in rural communities given their limited resources. After our winter meeting,

Login Brothers presented a multi-media fair in which the latest software products were demonstrated. Several hospital administrators attended this programme. MHLA again agreed to participate in the Manitoba Libraries Association Joint Spring Conference in May. Our programme this year is on consumer health information. We are very fortunate to have Susan Murray, Senior Librarian, Consumer Health Information Services of the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library participate in two of our programmes.

Other accomplishments or developments during the year included: publication last August of another edition of the MHLA Union List of Serials and Union List of Audio Visuals with the majority of copies now sold; the Constitution is now in electronic form and will be reviewed for amendments; the indexing of the minutes of our meetings up to 1994 has been completed; the change in the University of Manitoba's online catalogue from Bridge to Bison has resulted in the discontinuation of updating the MHLA Union List of Serials in the catalogue.

The past year has been a rewarding experience for me and I would like to extend my thanks to the members of the MHLA Executive for their creativity, dedication and support.

Bill Poluha MHLA President, 1995-96

Northwestern Ontario Health Libraries Association

Chair

Catherine Walsh
Thunder Bay Regional Cancer
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Internet: cwalsh@octrf.on.ca
Secretary & Treasurer
Carol Steadwell
Membership
10

he Northwestern Ontario Health Libraries Association met six times in the past year. The overriding theme this year has been one of budget restraint and cutbacks in resources. Our network is striving to project an image of cooperation and resource sharing for the benefit of all. We are currently pursuing funding to allow us to update our union list and to produce a brochure outlining our services and promoting our association. We are hoping to be able to have the union list produced on INMAGIC to allow future updates to be done with minimum expense.

Members of NOHLA participated throughout the year in workshops and information sessions on Grateful Med, computer skills and library orientations for Family Medicine North's Residency and Intern programmes. This fall NOHLA will participate in a series of continuing education workshops on computer skills for health professionals. We are working with Health Sciences North on this project. Two of our members will represent NOHLA at CHLA/ABSC in June.

The amalgamation of the two largest acute care hospitals has been finalised and as a result the libraries of both sites are serviced by one librarian, Carol Steadwell and the work load is proving to be formidable.

In the past year the college has greatly enhanced its Resource Centre with additional computer equipment and Internet access as well as more health sciences resources. However, the college and most of our institutions are faced with necessary cutbacks particularly in journals.

We are looking forward to new activities and challenges in the fall.

Catherine Walsh NOHLA President, 1995-96

Windsor Area Health Libraries Association

President Toni Janik

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Diane Jewkes

Treasurer Anna Henshaw

Membership 18

Secretary

embership in our association has decreased to 18 this year in part because of reconfiguration, downsizing, mergers, etc. No one seems to be unaffected by the

changes. Hotel Dieu Grace has moved their libraries onto one site (Ouellette Avenue) as more services are rationalised.

WAHLA held an education day to ready ourselves for DOC-LINE implementation. Jan Greenwood and Paul Ward presented a very comprehensive look at what it is, costs, benefits and how to begin.

Paul Ward has been asked by the membership to produce our Union List. Members are currently applying for LIBIDs and SER-HOLD codes. Networking continues to be an important, essential component of providing service to all of our clients. DOCLINE will provide one of the tools to effectively meet our needs for information for patient care in a timely manner.

Meetings were held twice this year with an educational component at each one.

Toni Janik WAHLA President, 1995-96

London Area Health Libraries Association

President & BMC Correspondent

Mai Why Medical Library

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President-Elect

Membership

& Secretary Jan Figurski
Past President Mary Gillet
Treasurer Leslie Legge

AHLA used the 1995/96 year to regroup. The Chapter restructured its executive, rewrote the constitution, and changed its meeting and committee structure. All this was undertaken by the Executive in response to feedback from the membership which said it wanted an Association that would:

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- bc capable of effecting change
- be more responsive to the needs of its members
- provide more contact time for its members in Association activities.

Through a number of its regular meetings, and by surveying the membership, the following changes were made:

a Continuing Education Officer role was created, and added to the Past-President's position. In October, 1995, the Chapter subsequently organized a highly successful Internet workshop.

- Additional large-scale CE events are now being planned. Small-scale CE activities, as well as opportunities for individual presentations by members, are now being built into all Chapter meetings.
- in addition to the new CE position, the Executive created a stand-alone Secretary position. It is an elected position, but individuals in the position may continue as Secretary from year to year.
- the Executive Committee was empowered to make decisions on behalf of the membership between general meetings, and the quorum for decisions by the membership was lowered to 25%.
- the Association embraced the concept of using "working groups", such as committees, task forces, or interest groups, to further the work of the Association, and provide additional contact time for general members. One such group, the Docline Task Force, we expect to provide us soon with SERLINE compatible records of our Union List, and thereby enable LA-HLA members to participate in DOCLINE as providers. A newer working group, the Resource Sharing Committee, will, among other things, help us review document delivery and ILL arrangements, and look at relationships between the hospitals and our primary provider, the Taylor Library of the University of Western Ontario.

Health care restructuring continues to have significant repercussions on London-area health care facilities and by extension, on LAHLA libraries. The London Acute Care Teaching Hospital Restructuring Committee (LACTHRC), a high-level committee organised by the District Health Council, delivered its final report. Its recommendations include: consolidation of specific clinical practices at specific institutions. It also endorses the integration of support services across many institutions.

Two large, acute care hospitals, Victoria and University, officially merged in 1995, thereby creating the second-largest hospital in Canada. Libraries at both sites are integrating, and the merger will likely have significant effects on the provision of health care information in the area. Two other hospitals, London Psychiatric and St. Thomas Psychiatric, are involved in a process to determine which will close.

The changes that LAHLA made in 1995/96 will hopefully keep it responsive to its members needs and position it to deal effectively with the significant changes that will come in 1996/97.

Jan Figurski LAHLA President, 1996-97

Wellington-Waterloo-Dufferin Health Library Network

Co-Chairs Brenda Vegso

Guelph General Hospital 115 Delhi Street Guelph, ON N1E 4J4

Tel: (519) 822-5350 x259 Fax: (519) 763-0769

Elizabeth Andrushko

Groves Memorial Community

Hospital

235 Union Street East Fergus, ON N1M 2W3

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Treasurer

David Hull

Membership

17

- 1. Brantford General Hospital
- 2 Cambridge Memorial Hospital
- 3. Community Mental Health Clinic, Guelph
- 4. Conestoga College Doon Campus
- 5. Dufferin Caledon Health Care Corporation
- Grand River Hospital Freeport Health Centre
- Grand River Hospital Kitchener-Waterloo Health Centre
- 8. Groves Memorial Community Hospital
- 9. Guelph General Hospital
- 10. Homewood Health Centre
- 11. Louise Marshall Hospital
- 12. Palmerston and District Hospital
- 13. St. Joseph's Hospital and Home
- 14. St. Mary's General Hospital
- 15. University of Guelph
- 16. Victorian Order of Nurses Waterloo Branch
- 17. Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Health Unit

embership increased with one new member from the Brantford General Hospital. All seventeen institutions have opted for full Wellington-Waterloo-Dufferin Library membership.

Meetings

Wellington-Waterloo-Dufferin Health Library Network members met in April, June, October, December and February of the fiscal year 1995-1996. Meetings focused on library issues and were highlighted with guest speakers and special events.

In April members met and discussed Network administrative issues. Members adopted a "Code of Ethics for the Health Sciences Librarian".

Thelma Bisch, Grand River Hospital, Kitchener-Waterloo Health Centre retired after 29 years of service as Hospital Librarian. Network members honoured this occasion with a potluck dinner at the home of Margaret Picassinos.

The June Annual General Meeting was combined with a luncheon hosted at the home of Joyce Pharoah.

October's meeting addressed internal Network functions. A new and updated Network pamphlet was completed. It was noted that Elaine Baldwin, St. Mary's, won the Rip Kirby Award for special person of the month. This benour was awarded by her peers.

A Christmas luncheon was hosted by Elaine Baldwin at her home.

In February Bernard Katz, Librarian, University of Guelph, gave an informative presentation on Copyright with special attention given to "CANCOPY and the Small Hospital Library".

Serials List

The updated ninth edition was made available for purchase for \$20.00.

It was an interesting and challenging year for the Wellington-Waterloo-Dufferin Health Library Network.

Brenda Vegso WWDHLN Co-Chairs, 1995-96 Elizabeth Andrushko WWDHLN Co-Chairs, 1995-96

Golden Horseshoe Health Libraries Association

President Liz Bayley

Health Sciences Library 1200 Main Street West Hamilton, ON L8N 3Z5

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Fax: (905) 528-3733

Internet: bayleyl@fhs.mcmaster.ca

Vice President/President Elect

& BMC Correspondent Secretary & Treasurer

Susan Armbrust Gayle Fitzgerald

Membership

31

The first year of existence for the Golden Horseshoe Health Libraries Association has been busy, with members getting to know each other, sharing experiences (lots of job stress!) and working out what they expect from GHHLA.

As reported in the Spring 1996 BMC Chapter News, Liz Bayley assumed the presidency on July 21 shortly after the last CHLA annual meeting, when Leslie Sutherland moved with her family to British Columbia. The post of Vice-President remained vacant until the first Annual General Meeting on November 21, at which point Susan Armbrust filled the position by acclamation. Gayle Fitzgerald stayed on for a second term as Secretary-Treasurer.

Like most of our Canadian colleagues, our members spent the year reacting to proposals for reorganising health care in response to financial constraints. The provincial government has made major funding cuts to the health and education sectors in Ontario. In the Hamilton-Wentworth area, a significant event was the release of the report of the Health Action Task Force to the District Health Council. Entitled "Our Health, Our Future: a comprehensive plan for health care in Hamilton-Wentworth", it recommended a major restructuring of the delivery of health care, including the closure of one acute care hospital. This resulted in a massive public outcry, a counter-proposal by the Academic Health Care Network and a response from the Hamilton-Wentworth Health Library Network, emphasising the essential role of libraries in providing what was identified as a "key resource": information. The final

outcome in terms of downsizing, mergers and closures is still not known. Similar re-engineering processes are underway in most of our member's institutions.

GHHLA has seen direct effects of funding cuts with the voluntary severance of one member and the reduced work week of another. In addition, another member was affected by the Ontario government workers' strike at the beginning of the year, and gained the experience of serving on a picket line.

Events

- Annual General Meeting: November 21, 1995, at Hamilton Public Library
- a Continuing Education: Complexity, Change and the Butterfly Connection: resources for coping with personal and vocational change", by the Reverend Morar Murray-Hayes, held March 26, 1996 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Hamilton (a very timely presentation!)
- a Annual Dinner: May 16, 1996, in Jordan Station on Lake Ontario (in the rain, alas), with guest speaker Pam Rose, President of the New York Health Sciences Librarians, who spoke on "U.S. Health Care; an anecdotal perspective - life on the other side".

Projects

- Membership Directory distributed
- Results of the software survey distributed
- E-mail list set up for members with access to the Internet.

Plans

- m Members have identified resource sharing and mentoring as major goals for the chapter.
- The formation of a task force to examine the issues involved in resource sharing and union listing and to report back at the November 1996 annual general meeting, has been approved. At this point, members do not feel ready to participate in DOC-LINE.
- A skills survey of GHHLA members will be carried out, in order to maximise the sharing of members' skills through sharing of knowledge and mentoring.

Liz Bayley GHHLA President, 1995-96

Central Ontario Health Libraries Association

President Mary McDiarmid

& BMC Correspondent Oshawa General Hospital Library

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Past President Norma Dickerson Secretary & Treasurer Fran Westgarth

Membership 19 member institutions

♦ OHLA sponsors two general meetings each year, one in the Spring and the second in the Fall. Our Spring meeting was hosted by Peggy Binkle of the Grey Bruce Regional Health Centre in Owen Sound and the Fall meeting by Susan Hendricks of the Oshawa General Hospital.

The Spring meeting was primarily a business session, although the tour of Peggy's library and health care centre provided a welcome diversion from the serious business of planning for COHLA's future. Business at the Spring meeting included proposals for revision of the COHLA Constitution and our membership brochure as well as discussion of COHLA's participation in DOC-LINE. These revisions were finalised and adopted at the Fall meeting in Oshawa.

Jan Greenwood was the guest speaker at our Fall meeting. Jan provided members with an informative update on the new CCHFA Accreditation standards as well as an overview of DOCLINE and the technological requirements for each participating library. At this point, approximately half of COHLA's members have the Internet access that is required for DOCLINE participation.

We welcomed a new member to our midst in 1995 bringing our membership up to 19 participants. Sandra Saddy of the OPP General Headquarters Library in Orillia is our newest member whose library collection in forensics will provide a useful resource for members.

Members continue to share information and support each other in face of the changes that are occurring within the health care system. As part of our mandate to share resources, the sixth edition of the Union List was updated and made available to members in the Fall. This year, COHLA entered into a resource sharing arrangement with WAHLA libraries to provide for reciprocal borrowing between both groups.

Susan Hendricks COHLA President, 1996-97

Toronto Health Libraries Association

President	Elaine Wright Science & Medicine Library University of Toronto 7 King's College Circle Toronto ON M5S 1A5
	Tel: (416) 233-1542 Fax: (416) 971-2848 Internet: wright@library.utoronto.ca
President Elect	Colleen Mulloy
Past President	Teresa Helik
Treasurer	Boguslawa Trojan
Secretary	Tamsin Adams-Webber
Co-Editors, THLA News	Anne Taylor-Vaisey Cathy Lindsey-King
BMC Correspondent	Anne Taylor-Vaisey
Membership	161

he Toronto Health Libraries Association, now thirty years old, was originally established as the Toronto Medical Libraries Group during the fall of 1965, "to meet occasionally and informally in order to discuss matters of mutual interest". THLA has 161 members representing 100 medical and allied health libraries in the Toronto area.

At our annual banquet and AGM, THLA awarded the first Annual Prize in Health Sciences Librarianship to Lella Dal Ferro. The prize is awarded in recognition of outstanding scholastic achievement in a course which is directly related to health sciences librarianship at the Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto. In addition to an invitation to attend the AGM as a guest of the Association, the recipient receives \$250.00 in cash and a membership in the Toronto Health Libraries Association for the membership year immediately following receipt of the prize.

During the year, THLA held three meetings with educational programmes as well as two social events, a Holiday Party at the

Faculty Club of the University of Toronto and the Annual Banquet at Massey College, also at U of T. Many members have been very involved in the arrangements for the June meeting of CHLA in Toronto. Many also participate in related organisations: the Health Science Information Consortium of Toronto, the Ontario Hospital Libraries Association, the Upstate New York & Ontario Chapter (UNYOC) of MLA, and the local chapter of the Special Libraries Association.

Our first programme in October entitled "Complementary Medicine: East Meets West" was presented very enthusiastically with demonstrations by Dr. Fred Hui. Dr. Laura Shanner, Department of Philosophy and the Centre for Bioethics at the University of Toronto, spoke at our February meeting on the ethical implications of the new reproductive technologies and specifically on the difficulties in obtaining negative data. In April, Joseph J. Colangelo of McCarthy Tétrault brought us up to date on the Ontario Health Care Consent Act, 1996, with legal interpretations of terminology and the implications for patients and physicians.

A highlight of the Annual General Meeting and Banquet was the awarding to Dorothy Davey of an Honorary Life Membership in THLA, in recognition of her significant contributions to the Association. Our entertaining speaker was Dr. Bill Green, columnist of "In Pastures Green" in *The Medical Post*. THLA received a grant of \$1000 from the CHLA/ABSC Development Fund to support the conversion of the Union List to DOCLINE format and to provide training for members. There are now 59 contributors to the THLA/Consortium Union List of Periodicals. Two Introductory Sessions and two on Completing Routing Tables have been held during 1996. A "Train the Trainers" DOCLINE seminar will be held in June. DOCLINE is expected to be fully implemented in Toronto in the fall of 1996.

Over the next year, THLA will continue to provide avenues for networking and professional development for its members.

Elaine Wright
THLA President, 1995-96

Ottawa Valley Health Libraries Association/Association des bibliothèques de la santé de la Vallée de l'Outaouais

President Elizabeth Hawkins Brady

Library

Canadian Nurses Association

50 The Driveway Ottawa, ON K2P 1E2

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Alexi Campbell

Secretary Vacant

Treasurer

Membership 25 member libraries

The OVHLA/ABSVO has had an active year. In October, the chapter hosted a continuing education opportunity for its members, offering the MLA course "Consumer Health Information Services". The course was presented by Sharon Quist, Medical Circuit Librarian for the Central New York Library Resources Council, and the developer of the MLA course syllabus.

Our DOCLINE Task Force, established in 1995 to investigate participation in DOCLINE, presented its report to the membership in January. The Task Force recommended that the OVHLA/ABSVO proceed with DOCLINE in light of the University of Ottawa's agreement in principle to participate. The April chapter meeting included a DOCLINE demonstration by Dianne Pammett at CISTI. The chapter applied for funding from CHLA/ABSC's Development Fund to finance the DOCLINE project, and the application was approved at the June Board meeting. The project will proceed as soon as possible, with a target completion date of December 1996.

A new edition of our union list was produced, co-ordinated by Judith van Berkom of the University of Ottawa Heart Institute Library. Revisions were made online and processed by Paul Ward, who has so ably produced our union list for many years.

The OVHLA/ABSVO has agreed to host the 1998 CHLA/ABSC conference in Ottawa, and a special meeting of the chapter has been scheduled for early July to begin planning this event. We look forward to seeing you here in 1998!

Elizabeth Hawkins Brady
OVHLA/ABSVO President, 1995-96

Kingston Area Health Libraries Association

President Karen Gagnon & BMC Correspondent Staff Library

Staff Library

Kingston Psychiatric Hospital

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President Elect Cheryl Martin
Secretary & Treasurer Lucinda Walls

Membership 17

By all accounts, KAHLA has had an active year. General meetings, telemedicines, guest speakers, DOCLINE, updating union lists, and the CHLA/ABSC conference have kept us very busy.

During the summer of 1995, KAHLA had agreed to host the CHLA/ABSC conference in 1998. Although we are a small chapter, we felt that Kingston would be a beautiful city for the conference. However, over the past year, our membership has declined by one-third due to downsizing, layoffs, and job changes. At our last KAHLA meeting on May 27, 1996, we discussed the CHLA/ABSC conference in great depth. We concluded that although we were enthusiastic about the conference, in reality, we

simply did not have enough active members to plan and host it. It is with regret that we made this decision. However, we anticipate other associations in small cities will encounter similar difficulties in hosting a CHLA/ABSC conference.

While President Karen Gagnon was away on maternity leave from October 1995 to April 1996, President-Elect Cheryl Martin ably carried out her duties.

During the past year, four meetings were held. At our September 1995 meeting, Phil Hahn from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Queen's University gave an enlightening presentation on the Cochrane Pregnancy and Childbirth Database. President-Elect Cheryl Martin gave an information session of "Fee for Service" at the January 1996 meeting. Cheryl also led a KAHLA focus group on the Library's Role in the new CCHSA Standards for Acute Care Facilities in February 1996. KAHLA members attended three telemedicine sessions: "Introducing Evidence-Based Medicine" (October 2, 1995), the "Down Sides of the Internet and the WWW" (January 29, 1996) and "Clinical Informatics Network" (April 29, 1996).

KAHLA has also been busy preparing for DOCLINE. Bracken Library at Queen's began using DOCLINE in the fall of 1995. Other KAHLA libraries anticipate becoming DOCLINE users by May 1997.

Resource sharing continues among KAHLA members. To this end, the KAHLA Directory of Library Services was updated, as was the Union List of Serials in Kingston Area Health Libraries. In addition, a KAHLA-L listsery was set up by Suzanne Maranda

at Bracken Library to facilitate communication among members.

It is with sadness that I report the closing of the Library at the Kingston Regional Cancer Centre and job loss for David Forkes.

I would like to thank Cheryl Martin for filling in for me while I was on leave, and Lucinda Walls and Suzanne Maranda for all of their help with the conference plans.

During these times of restructuring/reengineering / downsizing,

our colleagues and professional associations continue to be sources of great support. Given this climate, KAHLA will continue to provide continuing education, professional development opportunities and support to its members.

Karen Gagnon KAHLA President, 1995-96

Association des bibliothèques de la santé de Montréal / Montreal Health Libraries Association

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Vice présidente Donna Gibson Secrétaire & Wendy Blue

Editrice du Bulletin

Trésorière Shirley Edwards

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- SWETSCAN (19 octobre 1995); Conférencier. Richard Flynn;
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- Fête de Noël conjointe avec MMHLA et ABSAUM (décembre 1995)
- Droits d'Auteur (29 février 1996); Conférencier: Maître Jacques Labreche; Participants: 26
- ¤ Réunion annuelle de l'ABSM/MHLA (13 mai 1996); Conférencier: Peter Palmer (Fondation Dale Carnegie): «Gérer le changement»

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Bulletin de l'ABSM: quatre numéros

Sharon Pipon

ABSM/MHLA Présidente, 1995-96

Réunions

L'exécutif s'est réuni cinq fois au cours de l'année.

Maritimes Health Libraries Association/Association des bibliotnèques de la santé des Maritimes

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Past President Anne Kilfoil
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Treasurer Susan Libby

Editors & Karen Darrach, Patrick Ellis

BMC Correspondents

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uring the past year MHLA/ABSM was fortunate to sponsor several excellent educational sessions at our two general meetings.

Our Fall 1995 meeting was held at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital in Fredericton, Dr. Françoise Hébert presented a full day programme on "Copyright in Canada" with attendance by many of our own membership and others from the local library community. The Spring 1996 meeting in Halifax was highlighted by an afternoon workshop co-sponsored with the Dalhousie School of Library and Information Studies. Dr. Joanne Marshall gave participants an overview of benchmarking and related outcome measurement techniques.

The process of updating the *Union List of Serials in Maritime Health Libraries* was begun in late 1995 with the assistance of Darlene Chapman. Several new participants have joined our list and the new edition will be available to members in late 1996. MHLA/ABSM union list participants agreed to join DOCLINE as a group and to seek funding to enable our participation.

A new executive under the leadership of Darlene Chapman was elected at our Spring 1996 meeting for the 1996-98 term.

Paul Clark
MHLA/ABSM President, 1994-96

Newfoundland and Labrador Health Libraries Association

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Vice-President

Catherine Sheehan

Secretary/Treasurer

Cathy Ryan

Membership

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The Newfoundland and Labrador Health Libraries Association held its annual general meeting and election of officers on April 26, 1996. The Agenda for the meeting included:

- a A presentation on locating health information on the World Wide Web, presented by Catherine Sheehan, Health Sciences Library, Memorial University.
- A very informative and timely talk by Sister Elizabeth Davis, CEO of the St. John's Health Care Corporation, on the coming changes and restructuring of the health care system in Newfoundland.
- A presentation on Document Delivery, specifically on the use of DOCLINE and ARIEL, by Linda Barnett of the Health Sciences Library.
- Example 2 Exampl Cathy Ryan, of the St. Clare's Hospital Nursing Library, presented updates on the changes taking place with hospital and nursing school collaborative programs.

The election of officers took place, with the following executive elected:

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Catherine Sheehan

NLHLA President, 1996-97



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News and Notes

Forthcoming Events

Le Congrès annuel et colloque de l'ASTED

C'est à Montréal que l'Association pour l'avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation (ASTED) tiendra son 23^e congrès annual, à l'Hôtel du Parc, du 30 octobre au 2 november 1996. Le thème: «Services d'information: bouleversements, enjeux et stratégies».

Plus amples informations:

ASTED Bureau 202 3414, avenue du Parc Montréal, QC H2X H5 Tél 514-281-5012

Télécopieur 514-281-8219 Internet www.asted.org E-mail asted.@ulix.net

International Congress on Medical Librarianship

The 8th International Congress on Medical Librarianship (ICML) is scheduled to take place July 9th to 12th, 2000 in London, England. Further information on themes, registration, continuing education opportunities, accommodation and social events will be announced in *BMC* as plans progress. Canadian representatives on the planning team are Frances Groen of McGill University, and Joanne Marshall from the University of Toronto.

People

Marjory Morphy retired from her position as Director of Library Services, at the North York General Hospital on May 31, 1996. Best wishes to Marjory as she begins this exciting time.

Elaine Bernstein has been appointed Director of Library Services at the W. Keith Welsh Library, North York General Hospital. Her appointment was effective June 3, 1996. Elaine previously held the position of Reference Librarian at North York General Hospital.

Telemedicine Schedule

All sessions are on Mondays, 3:30-4:15 ET. Telemedicine can be reached at 416-599-1234 or fax 416-598-1848.

September 9, 1996 - Restructuring: a Real Life Experience: Toronto Hospital Libraries and the Metro Toronto District Health Council

Presenter:

Elizabeth Uleryk, Director, Hospital

Library, Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto

Moderator:

Janette Hatton, Health Library Specialist,

Hamilton Civic Hospitals

September 30, 1996 - Copyright and Hospital Libraries

Presenters:

Sharon Virtue, Doctors Hospital, Toronto;

Lois Wyndham, Chedoke-McMaster

Hospitals, Hamilton

October 21, 1996 - So I'm In DOCLINE - Now What?

Presenters:

Catherine Rayment, Librarian, Vancouver

Health Board, on $DOCLINE\ User\ Groups$

Suzanne Maranda, Health of Public Services,

Bracken Library, Queens University, on

Using QuickDoc

Bev Brown, DOCLINE Coordinator, CISTI,

Ottawa, on Routing Tables

Moderator:

Patrick Ellis, Head, Access Services, Kellogg

Library, Dalhousie University

December 2, 1996 - Libraries Responding to the Changing Health Care Environment

Presenters:

Janette Hatton, Health Library Specialist,

Hamilton Civic Hospitals;

Anne Kilfoil, Director, Region 2 Hospitals

Corporation, Saint John NB;

Bill Poluha, Reference Librarian, Neil John

Maclean Health Sciences Library, University

of Manitoba

Moderator:

Lea Starr, Reference Services Librarian, John

W. Scott Health Libraries, University of

Alberta

January 27, 1997 - Putting the Library on the Critical Path for Patient Care: Strategies for the Small Health Library

Presenter:

Cheryl Martin, Hospital Librarian

Moderator:

Jill Campbell, Sarnia General Hospital

Call for Papers and Posters

Contributed Papers

The Planning Committee of the Canadian Health Librarics Association/Association des bibliothèques de la santé du Canada invites submissions for contributed papers at the 21st Annual Conference, to be held in Vancouver, British Columbia on May 28th - June 1st, 1997.

Papers may describe research or practices of interest to the health library community on topics related (but not limited) to the theme of the Conference..."Drawing Closer - Reaching Further". To capitalize on the idea of "Drawing Closer", papers on topics such as resource sharing, regionalization, and/or re-engineering in times of fiscal restraint are welcomed. The theme of "Reaching Further" may incorporate discussions about the Internet, multiculturalism, resources for alternative health, distance education, outreach services and outcomes of accreditation.

Incumbents will be asked to present their papers for comment and peer review in a plenary session or round-table discussion at the Conference. Please submit a short abstract of 250 words or less, identifying topic, key elements and outcomes or conclusion.

Poster Sessions

The committee also invites proposals for poster sessions. Poster sessions provide opportunities for CHLA/ABSC members (and others who attend) to share innovative techniques or ideas with their colleagues on a variety of topics. Sessions that relate to the Conference theme of "Drawing Closer - Reaching Further" are particularly welcomed, and may pertain to Internet access and instruction, or describe programmes or research on resource sharing, alternative health, regionalization, distance education and outreach.

As the term "poster" suggests, projects are displayed on a poster board using text and/or graphics, accompanied by handouts that lead the audience through the research process or managerial outcome. Less intimidating than formal presentations, poster sessions are ideal forums to share ideas and network on a national level.

Individuals are asked to send an abstract of a proposed session, briefly describing the topic or major points of the presentation and its utility for the library community.

Deadline for Paper/Poster submissions is no later than November 15th, 1996. Address enquiries or submissions c/o:

Leslie Sutherland
Chair, Poster Sessions/Contributed Papers
21st Annual Conference Planning Committee
CHLA/ABSC
2251-140A Street
Surrey, BC V4A 9R8
Fax: (604) 533-4773

Internet: murray_sutherland@mindlink.bc.c

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- (2) "We have the evidence you're looking for Visit your health library"
- (3) «Dans l'âge de l'informatique, il faut être au courant Rendez visite à votre bibliothèque»
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Also available:

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These cards fold to a three-sided 3¹/2" x 4" display which, when placed on study tables, near the public catalogue, or on the reference and circulation desks, serve to remind clients of the value of their health library. Along with the CHLA/ABSC logo, messages on all cards include:

- A world of information awaits
- In the information age, make sure your information isn't aged
- Visit vour health library
- We have the evidence you're looking for

Sorry, English text only.

Tabletop Price: \$1.00 cach. Includes postage and handling; do not add PST or GST.

CHLA/ABSC Publications

CHLA/ABSC Standards for Library and Information Services in Canadian Healthcare Facilities, 1995

A major revision of the 1989 CHLA/ABSC Standards for Canadian health care facility libraries. These standards focus on the provision of knowledge-based, client-centred information, following the collaborative model developed by the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation (CCHSA). It also includes a glossary of terms, a resource bibliography, a self-evaluation checklist, and a key to the CCHSA Standards.

ISBN 0-9692161-4-5

Note that all orders for the CHLA/ABSC Standards document will be accompanied by a free copy of the Workload Measurement Systems publication described below.

Workload Measurement Systems: a Guide for Libraries, 1992

CHLA/ABSC Task Force on the CHA/MIS Guidelines

This publication marks the culmination of three years' work by the Task Force entrusted with the task of laying the groundwork for developing national guidelines for collecting data on library workload measures. It also constitutes the course guide for a workshop accredited by CHLA/ABSC and the Medical Library Association (MLA).

Readers are given a thorough grounding in the basic terminology and salient features of workload measurement systems (WMS). The Guide contains detailed instructions on how to design and implement WMS programs to meet the disparate needs of various types and sizes. The value of WMS as a departmental management tool to assist in performance and budget monitoring is stressed.

Included in the Guide are sample data collection and assessment forms, a conceptual model delineating primary and secondary library functions and an annotated bibliography.

ISBN 0-9692171-3-7

5.00 All orders

Ordering Information

Prices include postage and handling, do not add PST or GST.

All orders must be prepaid in Canadian funds. Please make cheques or money orders payable to:

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Normes pour les centres de documentation des établissements canadiens de santé ABSC/CHLA

Outil de travail essentiel pour le développment d'un Centre de documentation, cet ouvrage s'adresse à tous les spécialistes de l'information oeuvrant dans le domaine de la santé. Ces **normes** tiennent compte du développement des nouvelles technologies en vous indiquant la voie à suivre et mettent l'accent sur la collaboration et la consultation avec les autres programmes et services de l'établissement.

Voici donc une nouvelle édition des normes qui permettra aux professionnels de la santé et aux usagers d'avoir accès l'information dont ils ont besoin pour assurer un système et des services de santé de grande qualité.

«Les professionels de la santé dans toutes les disciplines essaient de se débrouiller devant l'explosion de l'information, l'importance grandissante de la médecine factuelle, également appelée médecine fondée sur l'expérience clinique (evidence-based medicine) et les demandes qui deviennent de plus en plus exigeantes. Les patients s'adressent maintenant davantage aux bibliothèques de la santé pour obtenir l'information dont ils ont besoin en tant qu'utilisateurs des services de santé. En effet, ils doivent fournir, autant à ceux qui offrent les soins qu'à ceux qui les reçoivent, un accès rapide et adéquat aux ressources et aux services d'information dont ils ont besoin pour assurer la qualité des services de santé.» (Normes, introduction v)

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Hewlett Packard DeskJet 500 Printer

Software (includes disks and manuals) MS DOS Verson 5 WordPerfect 5.1 Price: Hardware and Software \$500.00 (or best offer)

The Board reserves the right to reject all offers.

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Jan Johnson Regional Services Librarian University of Northern British Columbia 3333 University Way Prince George, BC V2N 4Z9 Tel: (604) 960-6473

Fax: (604) 960-6610 Internet: jjohnson@unbc.edu

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